

ORIENTAL BIRD CLUB



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THE ORIENTAL BIRD CLUB aims to:

- * encourage an interest in the birds of the Oriental region and their conservation.
- * liaise with and promote the work of existing regional societies.
- * collate and publish material on Oriental birds.

Two bulletins and a journal, *Forktail*, are published annually.

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Membership of OBC

Membership of the Club is open to all and costs £9 per annum (£6 reduced rate for nationals living in Oriental countries), and £15 for corporate members (organisations, libraries and universities). Please send your name address and payment to the Membership Secretary, OBC, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2LD, U.K. Please write in for details of payment into our U.S. or Indian bank accounts, or payment by direct debit or Giro.

Cover illustration: Pied Falconet *Microhiecax melanoleucos* by Carl D'Silva.

Editorial

For the first time this Bulletin contains a whole section on the Conservation Fund to let members know how money is being spent. This reflects the fact that in the last year or so, the Fund has really taken off, greatly helped by increased support from members and by sponsorship from Leica-U.K., for which we are very grateful.

In the Club News section you will see that we have a busy programme of meetings for this year. However we are very keen to hold future meetings in countries where we have not done so in the past. If you have any ideas on the organisation of a meeting in your country, please do get in touch with your Country Representative (listed opposite) or with Dick Filby, the Club's Meetings Organiser.

On page three we say farewell to the Club's first Chairman Richard Grimmett. In his place comes Paul Jepson who was one of the founders, a member of the launching committee and who has been on council since 1985.

Thanks for this Bulletin must go to all the contributors and artists, especially to Martin Woodcock, and to the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) for the use of their facilities.



Club News

Club Meetings in 1990

This year we have our busiest-ever programme of meetings, which, it is hoped, will give as many members as possible the chance to attend at least one. Unless otherwise specified all enquiries regarding meetings should be addressed to the Meetings Organiser at the Club's address.

Manchester Meeting, Saturday 14 July

This meeting, to be held at the Manchester Museum, The University, Oxford Road, Manchester, will focus solely on birds and their conservation in Indonesia. Richard Grimmett will give an introduction to the subject and members of the recent Manchester Indonesian Island expedition will talk on their experiences and results. Stuart Marsden will discuss parrots and the parrot trade in Indonesia, based on research he did last year which was partly funded by an OBC survey grant.

The whole programme will run from 13h30 to 17h00 but members may wish to arrive early so that they can take the opportunity to look around the University's Dresser collection of bird skins, which will be open for OBC members all morning. A full programme for the meeting is enclosed with this Bulletin.

Skive Meeting, Denmark, Friday 10 August

This meeting, being held at the end of the Nordic Congress of Ornithology, will include talks by Paul Jepson on the Indonesian islands of Sumba and Buru, Henrik Dissing on his journey in western China following in the footsteps of Frank Ludlow, and Finn Danielsen on the fight to save Sumatra's vanishing mangroves. The meeting, to be held in English, will start at 14h00 and finish at around 22h00 - there will be a break for dinner. A full programme is enclosed with this Bulletin.

Blakeney Meeting, Bank Holiday Sunday 26 August

As usual this will be held in Blakeney Village Hall starting at 18h00. Andy Clements will speak on birdwatching in Bhutan and a second talk is still to be confirmed. We will hold a mystery birds competition and WildWings travel agents will give a short presentation on their fundraising link with OBC. There will be an exhibition and sale of bird art, photographs and books before the meeting from 14h00 to 17h00. Anyone wanting to exhibit their work should contact the Meetings Organiser Dick Filby at the Club's address. Refreshments will be available and the licensed bar will remain open after the meeting ends at around 20h45, until closing time. We hope as many people as possible will stay on for an informal social gathering.

OBC Meeting & Tour, Malaysia, 5 - 13 October

This will provide a superb opportunity to gain an expert introduction to birdwatching in Malaysia with Dennis Yong, undoubtedly one of the best field ornithologists in South-East Asia. The programme includes several days birdwatching at Frazer's Hill and Taman Negara; a meeting with talks by leading experts on Malaysian ornithology, and the opportunity to take part in the Selangor Bird Race organised by the MNS, as part of an OBC team.

Full details and a booking form are enclosed on a separate flyer. The organiser of this meeting is Dennis Yong, 35 Jalan SS21/20, 47400 Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Isles of Scilly Meeting, Thursday 18 October

The OBC Scilly's meeting will start after the evening log at the Porthcressa café, Hugh Town, St. Mary's. Bryan Bland will give a talk on Ladakh, and there will be a mystery birds prize quiz. The OBC's 1990 Grand Prize raffle will be drawn at the meeting. Please confirm on arrival on the islands that the date of this meeting has not been changed by one or two days; the Porthcressa had not finalised their own programme of events by the time this Bulletin went to press.

1990 AGM in London, Saturday 1 December

Slightly earlier than usual, the AGM will be held at the Zoological Society of London in Regent's Park, and will run from 12h30 until 17h00. Full details will appear in the next Bulletin.

Changes on OBC Council

At the OBC AGM in December the responsibility for a number of key positions on Council changed hands. Paul Jepson is now Chairman, Mike Crosby is Membership Secretary and Richard Bosanquet is Treasurer. Carol Inskipp was appointed Secretary but regrettably had to stand down after two months. Simon Stirrup then took over as Secretary and he will also handle all Information Officer's correspondence as this post is at present unfilled. All officers of the Club should be contacted through the Club's address which is OBC, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL, U.K.

Some members of Council stood down and the Club is grateful to all of them for their hard work and commitment. Special thanks must go to Rod Martins, Craig Robson and Sally Allport who have been on Council since the Club was launched, and to Steve Rooke and Simon Harrap who joined the Council in 1986.

Thanks to the Club's First Chairman

At the last AGM, in line with the Club's constitution, Richard Grimmett's four-year term as Chairman came to an end. Richard was one of the group of people who conceived the idea of the Oriental Bird Club, and he took on the role of Chairman of the Club's Launching Committee in 1984, and later of the Club's first Council.

Richard's extensive knowledge of Oriental birds and conservation issues was an obvious asset, but of equal importance has been his ability to guide the pooled experience of Council members towards making wise and effective decisions on Club policy. Today the Club stands as a respected, effective and friendly organisation. This is a tremendous achievement and we are sure that members would like to join Council in thanking Richard for all his hard work over the last five years. Richard is remaining on Council and his knowledge and experience will help to ensure that the momentum of the last five years continues into the future.

(Contributed by the Club's new Chairman, Paul Jepson)

OBC Grand Prize Draw 1990

Thanks to everyone who supported last year's draw the Club managed to raise more than £700 for the Conservation Fund. In view of that success we have decided to run another fund-raising draw this year. Leica-U.K. and Nikon U.K. have generously sponsored the event, each donating a superb item from their latest ranges of optical equipment; a pair of Leica 10 x 42 binoculars and a Nikon fieldscope EDII with a 20x eyepiece. In addition there is a £250 travel voucher donated by WildWings, and several other prizes. All proceeds from the

Grand Prize Draw will go to help OBC's conservation work.

Some tickets are enclosed with this Bulletin; more can be obtained by writing in. It is a great help if you can send a stamped addressed envelope. Please support this event; buy some tickets, sell some tickets to friends, or just send in a donation. The two people who sell the most tickets are guaranteed a prize - a specially commissioned painting or drawing for which they can choose the subject.

All counterfoils and monies (payable to OBC) should be returned by 30 September. Members overseas should send their payments by bankers draft in sterling. Unsold tickets may be returned for sale by others. All correspondence and enquiries regarding the raffle should be addressed to the Promoter, R. A. Filby, 40 Onley Street, Norwich NR2 2EB, U.K.

Members Invited to Join OBC Tour to Bhutan

OBC has arranged a Club birdwatching tour of Bhutan, to be led by Council member Tim Inskipp - a widely acknowledged expert on Himalayan birds. Only group tourism is allowed in Bhutan, and total numbers of tourists rarely exceed 2000 per year. The Club has negotiated the programme for members with an experienced wildlife tour operator specialising in visits to Bhutan. The visit is planned for February 1991.

Bhutan, or Druk Yul, the Land of the Thunder Dragon, lies in the eastern Himalayas between the Indian territories of Darjeeling, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. The ornithology of this mountain kingdom is hardly known; few ornithologists have visited the country and those that have return deeply impressed by the country's cultural and natural heritage. Bhutan provides an insight into what other parts of the Himalayas must have been like in the past. Deforestation is not an issue in Bhutan; the hillsides are still covered with boundless forests of exceptional beauty. Birdwatching there is an unforgettable experience, and birds such as Rufous-necked Hornbill *Aceros nipalensis*, Solitary Snipe *Gallinago solitaria*, Blyth's Kingfisher *Alcedo hercules*, Satyr Tragopan *Tragopan satyra*, Yellow-rumped Honeyguide *Indicator xanthonotus*, Fire-tailed Myzornis *Myzornis pyrrhoura*, Coral-billed and Slender-billed Scimitar-Babblers *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus* and *Xiphirhynchus superciliaris*, Great, Brown and Black-throated Parrotbills *Conostoma aemodium*, *Paradoxornis unicolor* and *P. nipalensis*, Blue-winged Laughing-Thrush *Garrulax squamatus*, Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinis*, and Blanford's and Dark-rumped Rosefinches *Carpodacus rubescens* and *C. edwardsii*, have all been seen by recent visitors.

The government of Bhutan has responded to the need for development with an enlightened and sensitive philosophy which was perhaps perfectly expressed by His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck in 1980, when he told *Newsweek* magazine 'What we want to achieve is a balance between gross national product and gross national happiness'. Restricting foreign visitors to groups only is the Bhutanese approach to tourism.

The itinerary for the OBC tour will be roughly as follows. After arriving in New Delhi, the group will fly to Bagdogora in north-east India and then drive

into Bhutan. Over the next five days, we will drive eastwards, staying at Paro, Wangdiphodrang and Tongsa, and explore the rich forests cloaking the Dochu La and Pele La. After a night in the Bumthang Valley, we will drive to Shemgang in central-southern Bhutan, where we will explore the lowland forest, especially looking for Rufous-necked Hornbill. From here we will drive back to the Pele La, and the beautiful Popshika Valley, home to a sizeable wintering population of Black-necked Cranes *Grus nigricollis*. We will then embark on a four-day trek through the remote Black Mountains, which to our knowledge have not been explored previously by ornithologists. The trek will bring us back to Wangdi, from where we will drive to the old capital of Bunaka for a night, before leaving on the following morning for Phuntsholing and the Indian border.

The Club will be able to offer members a very competitive price for this 19 day tour, which will be in the region of £2,750 (London to London), depending on the group size. Perhaps most important, we hope participants will value the pioneering aspect of this trip to Bhutan, and will enjoy the company of a group of enthusiastic birdwatchers.

The minimum viable size for the tour group is eight and the maximum is 16. If you are interested in being a member of the Club tour to Bhutan in February 1991, please write to Tim Inskipp, OBC Bhutan Tour, OBC, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG18 2DL, U.K. Please ensure your letter arrives before 1 August 1990.

Member's Travel can Boost Conservation Fund

Members can now book travel from the U.K. knowing that one percent of the value of their booking will go to the OBC Conservation Fund, if they choose to book through WildWings.

WildWings is a new travel company formed in March of this year by John Brodie Good in conjunction with Bakers Dolphin Travel, based in Weymouth, Dorset, U.K. It is essentially a travel agent for birdwatchers, giving a high level of service for people travelling to any part of the world. In addition to offering scheduled, 'bucket shop', and charter flights, package holidays, cruises, ferries, insurance and all other services normally available from travel agencies, customers can also get information on bird books, site guides, trip reports and natural history museum details for their destination.

Initially, as part of WildWings commitment to the environment, they will donate 1% of the value of any booking from an OBC member to the Club's Conservation Fund. If the scheme is successful, it is planned that this percentage will be increased. U.K. members of the OBC do tend to travel a great deal and the arrangement with WildWings could raise a significant amount for the Fund. If you do decide to book through WildWings, when you make your booking, don't forget to mention that you are an OBC member.

WildWings can be contacted at 71 St Mary Street, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8PT, U.K. Telephone 0305 761300. Dick Filby is a WildWings representative and his address is 40 Onley Street, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 2EB, U.K.

Sales News

Enclosed with this Bulletin you will find the latest OBC sales details. New this time is a short book, published in Nepal by the Annapurna Conservation Area Project, entitled *A guide to the birds and mammals of Annapurna Conservation area*, by Carol Inskipp with full colour photos by Dave Cottridge and illustrations by Craig Robson. We will also be stocking for the first time a special number of the *Malayan Nature Journal* vol. 43, part 3 which consists entirely of the Malayan Bird Reports by Dr David Wells covering the period 1982 to 1987 (Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore). The very first and extremely popular OBC T-shirt featuring flying hornbills has been reprinted, and some sizes of other designs are still available. These three new items are included on the enclosed sales list. All profits from OBC sales go to the Conservation Fund. Any queries regarding sales should be addressed to the Club's Sales Officer.

OBC to Attend British Birdwatching Fair

OBC will be attending the British Birdwatching Fair 1990, which will be held at Rutland Water in Leicestershire, U.K., from Friday 31 August to Sunday 2 September. The fair is expected to attract some 20,000 people with its wide range of stands including optical equipment, birdwatching tour companies, and birdwatching and conservation organisations. OBC is being partly funded by WildWings for which we are most grateful. We hope that our presence will allow us to attract new members, encourage an interest in conservation in the region, raise some money for the Conservation Fund through sales and provide an informal information service to any birdwatchers who may be planning a visit to the Orient.

Collins Donate Field Guides

OBC is most grateful to Collins publishers for the donation of twelve copies of *A guide to the birds of South-East Asia* by Ben King, Edward Dickinson and Martin Woodcock. These are available from the Club for nationals in the Orient who are otherwise unable to obtain copies. Enquiries about the books should be addressed to the Club's Conservation Officers.

1989 AGM

The Club's 1989 AGM, held in London in December, was attended by more than 150 people.

Ben King, over from the States on a short lecture tour, gave an interesting talk on his experiences of birdwatching in China. His first visit to the country was in 1982, and he has now seen all but 65 of the approximately 1220 bird species recorded in China. The majority of his time in China has been spent in Sichuan Province; one of the richest in terms of wildlife, and the location for 9 out of China's 11 Panda reserves. At one of these, Jiuzhaigou, the bamboo has recently flowered and the resulting die-off of the plants is almost total. This could be disastrous as the Giant Pandas *Ailuropoda melanoleuca* today have

nowhere to go. In the past they would have simply moved on to another area close by until the bamboo had regrown. Ben used this example to highlight the increasing importance of wildlife reserves in China and how, sadly, they are now largely isolated islands in an otherwise denuded landscape. Ben's approach to birdwatching is to focus in on endangered species as he believes that in ten to 15 years many will no longer be around - a sobering thought. He feels that without some changes in the conservation scene in China the outlook is not good. There are undoubtedly some dedicated individuals working in conservation, and Ben outlined some positive proposals such as the establishment of a reserve for the severely threatened Sichuan Partridge *Arborophila rufipectus*. However he emphasised factors such as the forestry department having dual and conflicting responsibility for logging and conservation, and the Chinese system of job allocation which means that some conservation jobs may be filled by those not especially motivated; factors which Ben believes must mean that conservation action in China is unlikely to move ahead at all rapidly.

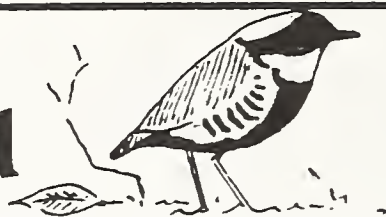
Derek Scott spoke briefly about a project he has been closely involved with, the recently published *Directory of Asian Wetlands*, which lists 947 wetland sites covering 73 million hectares across Asia. He stressed that the aim of the book was to assess the current situation of wetlands, their value and the threats to them, and to encourage further research and work on wetlands in Asia. Half the copies of the book have gone to those who contributed data and Derek stressed that while interested birdwatchers were expected to buy the book, those genuinely working on wetlands in Asia could receive a copy free.

Derek also spoke about the Asian Waterfowl census which has been a great success. In 1989, 20 countries took part and information on 222 species of waterfowl was received from 1319 wetland sites in Asia. The census has provided valuable information and has acted as an excellent awareness raising campaign for conservation in the countries concerned.

Frank Rozendaal gave a polished presentation on his recent work on pittas. He reported on his studies of, and efforts to photograph pittas, from the tropical islands of eastern Indonesia to the degraded forests of Vietnam.

As usual the Club held a Christmas raffle which raised money for the Club's Conservation Fund. A number of prizes were donated including a stunning Blue Pitta *Pitta cyanea* painted especially for the Club by Martin Woodcock.

Conservation Fund



Forktail-Leica Award 1990

Leica-U.K. have once again generously donated £500 for the Forktail-Leica Award for 1990. Application details were sent out with *Forktail* 5 and the deadline for submissions is 15 August 1990. If you would like more information or assistance in applying please write to OBC's Conservation Officers, Jon Eames and Carol Inskipp.

Forktail-Leica Award Winner, 1989

The first-ever winner of OBC's Forktail-Leica Award was announced at the AGM in December as Dr René Dekker from the Netherlands for his proposed work on the conservation and management of the Nicobar Scrubfowl *Megapodius nicobariensis*. The award, worth £500, is generously sponsored by Leitz Scientific Instruments UK.

René Dekker is a world expert on megapodes and his project to assist in the conservation of the Nicobar Scrubfowl will involve a number of activities. He will spend several months on the islands with the main purpose of passing on his knowledge about the conservation of megapodes to Indian conservationists and biologists from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and to start conservation activities and research on the Nicobar Scrubfowl.

The Nicobar Scrubfowl is the westernmost representative of the megapode family. Until recently, the species occurred on all islands of the Nicobars, and probably even on the most southerly and northerly of the Andaman Islands. However, it is now mentioned on several lists of endangered species including the ICBP *Birds to Watch*, published in 1988. Last year the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), reported the alarming situation facing the species and asked for international help. According to INTACH the Nicobar Scrubfowl has become extinct on all islands except Great Nicobar, where an estimated 400 birds survive. As in most other megapode species, human predation of eggs and adults, as well as habitat destruction are the main threats.

The project, to be conducted throughout with the close co-operation of Indian conservationists, will include an analysis of the size of the population of the Nicobar Scrubfowl on Great Nicobar; the determination of the best way to protect the incubation-mounds, eggs and adults against human and animal destruction and predation; and will locate an area on Great Nicobar which deserves special protection status to prevent further habitat loss.

A series of cancelled flights meant that René's planned time on Nicobar this year would have been cut to two or three weeks, insufficient time to complete his work. He therefore made the difficult decision to postpone the project. He aims to carry out this work in 1991 and the Club will publish a report in due course.

Survey Grant Awards

The awarding of small grants was a new conservation initiative for the Club in 1989. During the year three were awarded and one has so far been given in 1990. Thanks are given to OBC's country representatives Derek Holmes (Indonesia), Hector Miranda Junior (Philippines) and Mahendra Shrestha (Nepal) who provided assistance and advice to the grant recipients.

The first grant, of £278, was awarded to Simplicia Alonzo-Pasicolan who is a Philippine member. Simplicia's project was to survey birds collected at Dalton Pass, Luzon, for the bird trade. Dalton Pass is on a major migration flyway and is also a site of intense bird-trapping by local villagers who either consume the birds or sell them for trade purposes. Several endangered species are caught, but there has been no monitoring by the government agency, and virtually no information on the impact of this activity has been collected since the period 1964-67, when there was a large-scale ringing programme. Simplicia made four visits in 1989 and 1990 and collected information on the species and numbers being caught for comparison with the 1960s ringing programme data. She also looked at the socio-economic importance of bird-catching to local villagers.

Stuart Marsden was awarded an OBC grant, to the value of £250. Stuart went to Indonesia in September 1989 as a member of the Manchester Indonesian islands expedition which surveyed Sumba and Buru. Alongside the expedition survey work, he studied parrots and the parrot trade. He collected information on how the trade operates, undertook censuses of the species being traded and collected information on their ecology. After the expedition in December 1989 and January 1990 Stuart then extended this work to Seram, in particular to collect information on the Salmon-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua moluccensis*. This species has been heavily traded and no previous survey had been undertaken to assess its status or the sustainability of trade quotas. Last year, two British ornithologists, Bowler and Taylor, saw only 20 individuals during 40 days fieldwork on Seram, which led to concern over the species' current status. Stuart's data was a little more encouraging with 80 individuals recorded on Seram, including 25 in one morning. He collected data, which once analysed, hopefully will provide valuable information on the bird's habitat preferences. He also recorded Salmon-crested Cockatoos on Ambon from where there have been no recent records.

A survey grant of £200 was awarded to Nick Dymond. Nick is now on a long birdwatching trip to South-East Asia. He wished to spend some time doing a conservation-related survey during his trip, and from an ICBP list of sites in Sumatra in need of survey, he identified the islands of Nias and Simeulue and will be surveying them in May and June 1990. Nias is virtually deforested and Nick aims to investigate to what extent the forest birds have been able to adapt to secondary habitats. He also intends to locate the remaining forest areas on Simeulue and survey the birds they support.

In 1990 a grant of £150 was given to David Weaver to assess the status of the Bengal Florican *Houbaropsis bengalensis* in western Nepal. The Bengal Florican is one of the world's rarest and most endangered bustards and no work has been carried out on the species in Nepal since a survey in 1982. David's

survey was carried out in March and April 1990 in two strongholds for the species in Nepal, the Royal Bardia National Park and the Royal Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve. Dave found reasonable numbers of Bengal Floricans, six at Bardia and 17 at Sukla Phanta. His work complements comprehensive surveys of the species carried out by the Bombay Natural History Society in India in recent years.

Results of these surveys will be described in either the *OBC Bulletin* or in *Forktail* in the near future.

Sunbird Donation

OBC is most grateful to Sunbird bird tour company for their generous donation to the Conservation Fund.

DUTCH BIRDING



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News and Views

Important News from Sumba and Buru

An expedition organised by Dr Martin Jones of Manchester Polytechnic, on behalf of the Directorate for Nature Protection in Indonesia and ICBP, has recently spent two months each on the islands of Sumba and Buru. Both islands were surveyed by the FAO in the late 1970s, but these were far from comprehensive. The aims of the expedition were to collect data on the status and habitat preferences of the endangered species and subspecies found on these islands.

Sumba is known to have suffered extensive deforestation, but this was found to be even more comprehensive than expected. However, all of the island's eight endemic species were recorded in the remaining forest fragments. These included Red-naped Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus dohertyi*, Sumba Boobook Owl *Ninox rudolfi*, and Sumba Buttonquail *Turnix everetti*. The latter had not been recorded since 1949. In addition a lot of information was collected on the Sumba Hornbill *Rhyticeros everetti*, and this was found to be quite common where forest remained.

Buru is still extensively forested, but a lot of this is designated for utilization. The island supports ten endemic species and the expedition found five of these to be common. The endemic Black-lored Parrot *Tanygnathus gramineus* was not recorded and Blue-fronted Lorikeet *Charmosyna toxopei* was not conclusively identified. Buru Racquet-tail Parrot *Prioniturus mada* was found to be common, and subjective observations suggest it to be particularly common in logged forest. The two other unrecorded endemics, Streaky-breasted Jungle Flycatcher *Rhinomyias addita* and Rufous-throated White-eye *Madanga ruficollis* are thought to be inhabitants of montane forest, which were not surveyed by the expedition. (Contributed by Paul Jepson; see Recent Reports section for further information.) (More comprehensive results of the Manchester Indonesia Islands Expedition will be presented at the OBC Manchester Indonesia meeting on 16 July. Ed.)

Burma's Forests Valued at Less than 5 ha of Real Estate

Unable to obtain the teak they need because of the logging ban in their own country, Thai loggers have turned to Burma for their timber. The Burmese government has struck a deal worth \$100 million by selling 22 logging concessions. The forests along the Dawna mountains, which were formerly managed by the Karen rebels following the British-devised 'Burma Selection System' which ensured that the supply of trees was sustained, are now being stripped of their teak.

This deal is in stark contrast to another recent 'sell-off' by the Burmese Government; a five hectare embassy building which it sold to a Japanese property developer for \$239 million.

Deforestation in Sarawak described as 'Ecocide'

A fact-finding mission to Sarawak in Malaysia by members of the European Parliament (MEPs), has described the state's forestry policy as 'ecocide'.

The MEPs reached the conclusion that deforestation 'will wipe out the large majority of the virgin forests of Sarawak in the next decade' and they are likely to press for tough action by the European Community. The MEPs have appealed to the Malaysian government to:

- 1) Stop the devastating logging of primary and secondary forests.
- 2) Review the forestry policy to ensure that logging is sustainable.
- 3) Install a ban on the export of logs especially to Japan, Korea and Taiwan and to build up and expand the local timber processing.
- 4) Sell timber products at a price that takes account of the cost to the environment.

Imperial Pheasant 'Rediscovered' in Vietnam

Imperial Pheasant *Lophura imperialis* has been 'rediscovered' in Vietnam, 67 years after the only pair known to science was sent out of the country alive to J. Delacour. The 'rediscovery' was made by a team from the Forest Birds Working Group of the University of Hanoi and ICBP, when a live specimen was brought to them by a group of rattan collectors. The FBWG/ICBP team also found the recently described Vietnamese Pheasant *Lophura hatinhensis* in Nghe Tinh Province, and the largest population (perhaps 600 birds) of Crested Argus *Rheinardia ocellata* currently known in the Bach Ma 'proposed' National Park. (From J. Eames & C. Robson *in litt.* 1990)



Imperial Pheasant (by Craig Robson)

Waterfowl Counts in China Record Valuable Data

Mid-winter waterfowl counts from China in 1990 have recorded important populations of a number of *Red Data Book* species: Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes* (267 at five sites); Oriental Stork *Ciconia boyciana* (582 at 11 sites); Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* (537 at three sites); Baikal Teal *Anas formosa* (4,249 at seven sites); Baer's Pochard *Aythya ferina* 762 at six

sites); Hooded Crane *Grus monacha* (294 at five sites); Red-crowned Crane *G. japonensis* (681 at five sites); White-naped Crane *G. vipio* 2,716 at six sites); Siberian Crane *G. leucogeranus* 1,569 at four sites); Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer* (55 at three sites); Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* (44 at three sites) and Saunders' Gull *Larus saundersi* (244 at seven sites).

(Contributed by Jianjian Lu, East China Normal University, Shanghai, People's Republic of China)

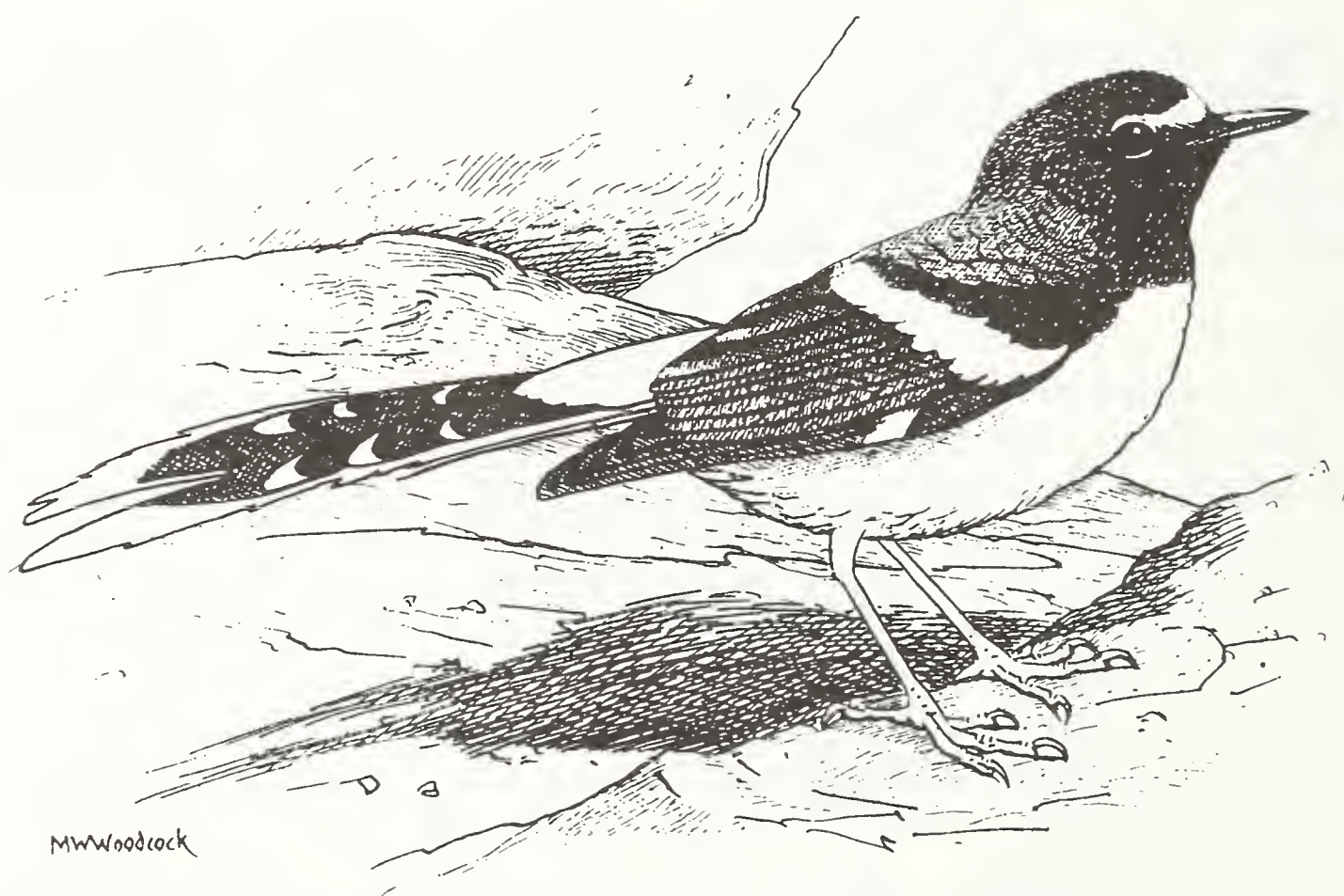
Riverine Birds and Land use in Nepal

In this article the author argues that while a great deal of attention has been paid to the direct effects of deforestation, the added impact on other ecosystems, specifically river ecosystems, has been largely ignored. He presents his work in Nepal as an illustration and urges that more work be done in this field.

Changing land use, such as deforestation, is widely recognised as having a marked and important influence on communities of terrestrial birds in Nepal². Rather less attention has been given to the effects which such land modifications have on adjacent ecosystems, such as the many rivers which drain affected areas. This is despite the long-standing knowledge that the ecology of rivers strongly reflects influences in their catchments¹, and the increasing recognition that some birds are integral components of river ecosystems³. Their population status can strongly reflect catchment effects which arise, through chemical (e.g. the use of pesticides and fertilizers), energetic (e.g. increased temperature, increased primary production but decreased litter inputs when trees are cleared) and physical effects (e.g. the destabilization of banks following tree removal, or siltation and erosion because of flow changes). River birds might respond to these changes both directly, for example because turbidity prevents foraging, or indirectly, because of changes in the quality or quantity of food in and around the river.

Large areas of the middle hills (the Mahabharat range) and the terai of Nepal have now had substantial modifications to their natural vegetation, probably over time scales of decades to centuries. In the hills, the former forest cover of oaks *Quercus*, *Rhododendron*, chestnuts *Castanopsis*, alders *Alnus nepalensis*, pines

Pinus and spruces *Picea* is now largely replaced by extensive terrace cultivations of rice, corn, wheat and potatoes, with only pockets of natural forest remaining. In the terai, former forests of Sal *Shorea robusta*, Red Silk cotton Trees *Bombax ceiba*, and communities of elephant grasses *Phragmites* and *Saccharum* are now largely replaced by arable croplands, or by plantations of mango and other fruits. In both areas, there is large scale use of pesticides, and nitrate/phosphate fertilizers. These chemicals drain into rivers, increasing their concentrations above background levels, particularly during low flows, which are depleted further through irrigation schemes. On the slopes of the middle hills, patterns of erosion and sediment yields may also have been modified by forest clearance, particularly during the monsoons, though this assertion remains controversial because of the occurrence of large landslips even in uncultivated areas. In many cultivations riparian trees have been depleted in number or removed altogether. Clearly, all these features are liable to have consequences for river ecology.



Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus* (by Martin Woodcock)

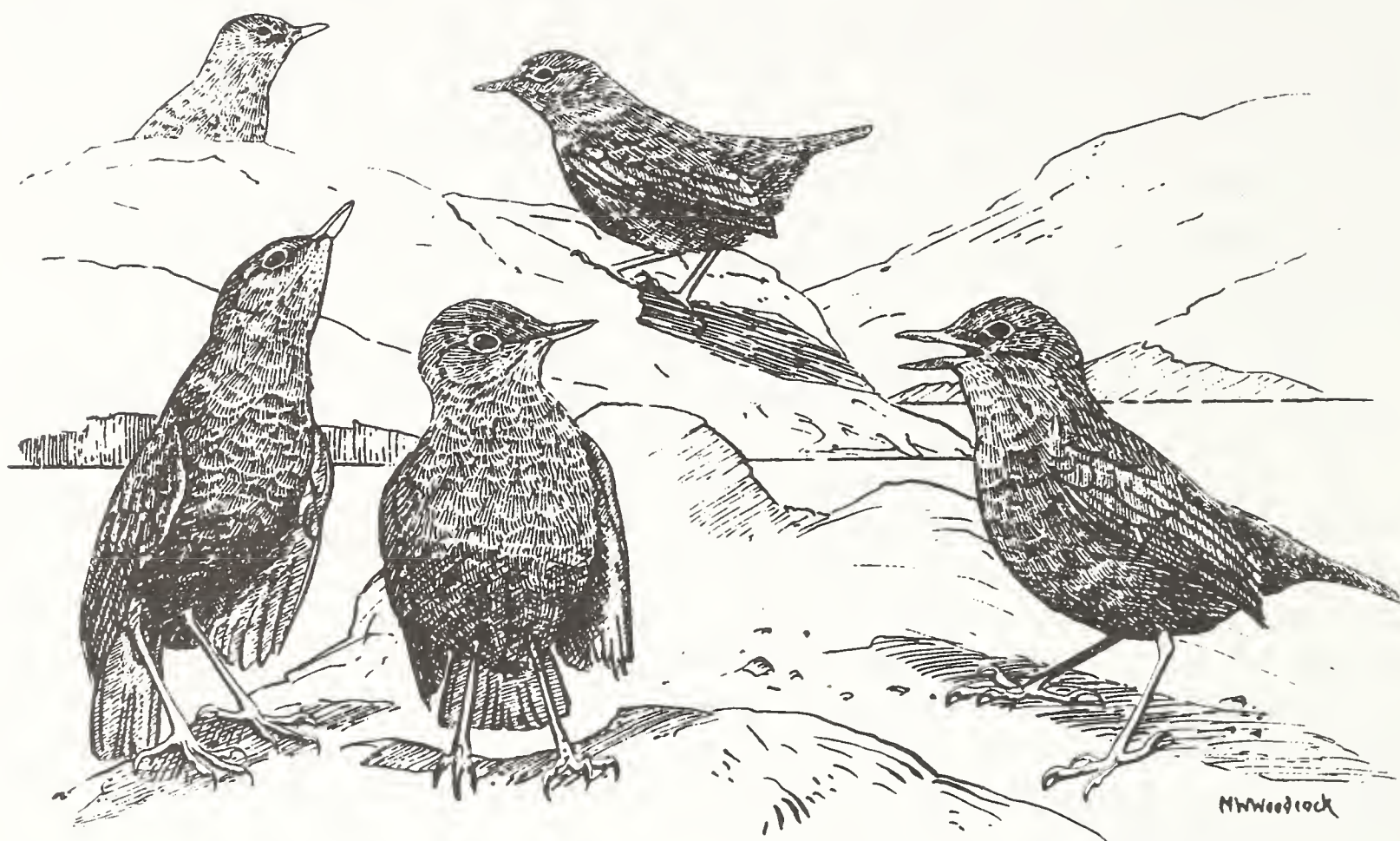
A pilot survey of the birds along a small sample of rivers was carried out during December 1989. Records were collected by walking along those in areas of the middle hills with some remaining forest (Phulchowki, Godavari, Sheopuri and Sundarijal in the Kathmandu Valley and in the catchment of the Bagmati River), as well as in extensively cultivated areas around the adjacent Sindu Khola near Dolalghat. The latter is the site of a watershed survey by the Nepali Department of Integrated Survey. In the terai, observations were made both from a boat along the Narayani River downstream from Meghauri, and by walking along some of this same reach, and surveying some of its south bank tributaries from areas of Sal forest. Where possible, a casual assessment of aquatic insect and fish life was made.

In the middle hills, differences between the ecology of rivers in the afforested and cultivated areas were pronounced, even where their general slope and current velocity were similar. In the afforested areas, insect communities were dominated by the groups typical of upland streams throughout large areas of the world, notably baetoid and heptagenoid mayflies, hydropsychid and other net-spinning caddis, black-fly larvae and chironomids. These rivers were mostly clear, though there was some evidence of sedimentation on the bed of the Sundarijal river. By contrast, rivers in the cultivated areas were turbid, their beds extensively covered by silt deposits, and their banksides unstable, with evidence of channel widening. Insect communities were restricted largely to black-fly larvae and chironomids (though adult dragonflies were commonly seen hawking around the river). Fish, notably small cyprinids, were numerous.

Bird communities also varied markedly between the two types of rivers. Along the streams draining areas of forest, Plumbeous Redstarts *Rhyacornis fuliginosus* were probably the most numerous of the species noted, with individuals spaced almost every 50 - 100m along all the rivers surveyed. River Chats *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus* were also common among the marginal boulders at Sundarijal and the lower slopes of Sheopuri. Forktails included Little *Enicurus scouleri* at Sundarijal, Slaty-backed *E. schistaceus* at Sundarijal and Godavari, and Spotted *E. maculatus* at Godavari, though all these records were of single individuals. Brown Dippers *Cinclus pallasii* were numerous only at Sundarijal, with the unusual spectacle of five birds all singing and displaying within close proximity of each other. Grey Wagtails *Motacilla cinerea* were seen at both Sundarijal and Godavari, the latter a record of a singing male.

Of all these species, only the Grey Wagtail was seen along rivers through areas of cultivation. Instead, the river bird community here consisted of Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii*, Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* and Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* along alluvial terraces around the river channel. Both Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* and Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* were numerous along the river itself, while White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* occurred along the channel and in surrounding areas of cultivation. White Wagtails *Motacilla alba* were numerous on the river terraces.

At least some of these differences are liable to reflect food supplies in each of the rivers, in turn reflecting the characteristics of their catchments. For



Brown Dippers *Cinclus pallasii* (by Martin Woodcock)

example, White-throated Dippers *Cinclus cinclus* in Europe are known to feed extensively on caddis larvae³, largely absent from the rivers in cultivated areas. By contrast, some wader species might benefit from the terraces and open terrain which occur following deforestation. Some of these species use a wide range of prey items, and are unlikely to be restricted by the small sizes of available prey in the cultivated rivers⁴. For other species, however, we have a limited understanding of their functional relationship with the river ecosystem, and it is not possible to deduce if and why cultivation and deforestation might be responsible for changes in distribution. This is particularly true of the forktails and chats, and useful studies could be made of their relationship with the river ecosystem, and with other bird species dependent on it.

River bird communities might also reflect physiographic or biogeographic differences between different catchments. This was most apparent when the terai was taken into consideration. Here, the large, braided channels and varied depths mean a greater range of habitats than occurs on the rivers in the middle hills. River birds in the terai included Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (occurring often on the beaches favoured by Gharials *Gavialis gangeticus*), Little Heron *Butorides striatus*, Large Egretta *alba* and Intermediate Egrets *E. intermedia*, Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*, Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*,

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii*, Red-wattled Lapwing, Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*, Green Sandpiper, Small Pratincole *Glareola lactea*, Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*, Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola*, Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*, White Wagtail and White-browed Wagtail *M. maderaspatensis*. Black-backed Forktails *Enicurus immaculatus* were seen only on or around smaller streams through Sal forest. These also held Common Kingfishers *Alcedo atthis*, a species which could be found too with Stork-billed Kingfishers *Pelargopsis capensis* and Oriental Darters *Anhinga melanogaster* in the marshes and quieter backwaters favoured by Mugger Crocodiles *Crocodylus palustris* and Smooth-coated Otters *Lutra perspicillata*. Grey Wagtails occurred both on the main river, and on damp tracks within Sal forest. Clearly, further data on the influences of land management on these species would be useful.

In summary, these preliminary observations indicate the overall need to understand relationships between rivers and their birds, particularly so that impacts by man can be more fully appraised. Lessons from other parts of the world are that land management does have marked impacts on rivers and river bird communities. Further work is intended in Nepal over coming years, but other similar studies could be profitably undertaken.

Acknowledgements

I thank my colleagues at the Institute of Hydrology, Drs Paul Whitehead and Alan Jenkins for making this survey possible. My thanks are also due to Dr P. B. Shah of the Nepali Integrated Survey Section for arranging access to the experimental catchments at Dolalghat.

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The Minimum Impact Code

The King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation in Nepal has just published a Minimum Impact Code. The Code is designed to give guidance for visitors to the Annapurna Conservation Area, a newly designated protected area covering 2660 sq km in central Nepal. The Trust, established in 1982, is a non-governmental, non-profit-making and independent organisation. It aims to conserve and manage natural resources in order to improve the quality of life of the Nepalese people. In the Annapurna Conservation Area the aim is to balance the needs of the local people, trekkers and the natural environment. Foreign visitors to any rural area could benefit from reading the Code and taking on board its messages.

THE CODE

You're in a great position to help conserve Nepal's unique heritage. Here's how to 'tread lightly' in this fragile area and make your visit a positively memorable one for all.

- Be self-sufficient in your fuel supply and provide for the needs of your support staff. You can purchase kerosene and rent stoves at the depot located at Chomrong in the Annapurna Sanctuary.
- Give preference to lodges and trekking companies that use kerosene and encourage their efforts to conserve the environment.
- Don't use scarce local firewood for heating purposes when putting on another sweater would suffice.
- Campfires and hot showers are truly a luxury, especially when local villagers are only using twigs and dried cattle dung for their personal needs. In view of the present fuelwood crisis, please use these services sparingly.
- Coordinate menus and mealtimes with other trekkers so that cooking fires can best be utilized.

- Use washing and toilet facilities provided or, if none is available, make sure you are at least 30 metres from any water source. Bury excreta and toilet paper and use biodegradable toiletries.
- Limit your use of non-biodegradable items and dispose of all rubbish properly: burn, bury or carry it out.
- This region has many of Nepal's rare and endangered plants and animals. Please do not damage, disturb or remove any of them. Stay on trails and camp in designated areas, especially at high altitudes where the environment is extremely fragile.
- Respect religious shrines and artifacts.
- Begging is a negative interaction discouraging independence and pride in the local youth. Please don't give money, sweets or other things to begging children.
- Taking photographs is a privilege, not a right. Ask permission and respect people's desire not to be photographed.
- Unless you are trained medical personnel and can provide follow-up care, do not give any medicines. Instead encourage the use of local health posts or other traditional facilities. Emphasize the importance of cleanliness.
- Many times the cost that it takes to accommodate a trekker is more than the lodgeowner is making. Be sure and pay a fair price for goods and services provided by the villagers. Hagglng over one or two rupees usually results in an unfair return and generates ill-feelings as well.
- Lodgeowner committees in several villages have set up standard rates for bed and food charges. Please observe them.
- Respect the customs and values of Nepali people in your dress and behaviour. Dress modestly, in line with local custom and avoid outward displays of physical affection.
- When interacting with villagers, guides and porters, help dispel their misconceptions about the West's infinite wealth and leisure. Create a realistic picture of your country and encourage pride in their own culture.
- Above all, remember that you are a representative of an outside culture and your impact lingers long after your return home. By assisting in these small ways you will help the land and people of Nepal enormously.

Ideas on Project Proposals and Seeking Funds

This article makes it very clear that, sadly, there are no magic formulas for obtaining funding for research or conservation work in the Orient. However, Paul Jepson outlines how to prepare a project proposal which should give as good a chance as any for success, and gives ideas on where and when to apply for funds.

The pressures facing our environment and the still far-from-complete knowledge of avian distribution and ecology in the Orient, mean that identifying a worthwhile and valuable project is a relatively easy task. Raising the money to carry it out is another matter and, although funding and sponsorship is available from a wide variety of sources, for many people the procedure of tapping into these sources can prove a difficult and fruitless exercise. The presentation of a well thought out and well structured project proposal is often the key to receiving grants and funding.

However well informed a grant-giving organisation may be it can never be fully versed in every field, and therefore cannot be expected to immediately grasp the importance or value of every project. In addition, such organisations have a duty to themselves and their membership to ensure that their funds are distributed wisely and effectively. There is therefore a tendency on the part of funders to 'play safe', and hence it is important for applicants to present a professional image by providing the information a potential funder will require in an easily accessible form.

A good way of achieving this is to present your proposal logically, step-by-step, each step forming a section heading. There is no agreement on any standard format and different projects may require slightly different treatment. However, here you will find the outline of a 'general' format which can be widely applied and adapted. It starts by 'setting the scene', then defines aims and objectives, and goes on to present the methodology by which these will be realised, concluding with the practical programme for implementation. To explain this format, each section is discussed below.

1. Title

The title of your project should be a clear and concise statement of your aim.

2. Abstract

If your project proposal extends to more than a couple of pages, it is valuable to include a short synopsis of the project.

3. Introduction and background

Here you should 'set the scene' of the project subject. You should include information on the location of the project area; a summary of what you know about the area/species/habitat concerned, including reference to previous work and communications with relevant authorities; and where applicable, information on threats and pressures to the area or species.

4. Aim and objectives

The aim encapsulates the overall purpose of your project, such as 'A survey of the status and distribution of Hume's Pheasant in north-west Thailand' or 'An assessment of the wintering population of Black-necked Cranes in Bhutan'. You should be able to state the aim in a single sentence. If you find this difficult it is probably because you are trying to include objectives which are best presented separately.

The objectives are what you intend to do to achieve your aim, and like the aim they should be a single sentence each; a statement of intent. It is important not to mix aims, objectives, and methodology, though distinguishing between these can involve a fair deal of thought. For example, to continue with the example of the Hume's Pheasant proposal, the following ideas for work could be under consideration.

- a) Survey areas of remaining forest in the known range of Hume's Pheasant.
- b) Count calling male pheasants in selected study areas.
- 3) Investigate the habitat preferences of Hume's Pheasant.

Of these three a) and c) are objectives, as these are areas which require investigation to achieve the aim. In contrast, b) is a census technique and should appear in the methodology section.

5. Rationale

This section (where necessary) provides an opportunity to expand on each objective, and to explain and justify why you believe these to be the key areas which need to be tackled. It is rarely necessary to write more than a paragraph for each objective.

6. Methodology

In this section the methodology or technique that you intend to follow to achieve your objectives is described. In our example, counting calling male pheasants would provide information relevant to both objectives. For each technique, it may be useful therefore to reference which objectives they fulfil.

Potential funders are likely to look critically at your methodology, and it is therefore valuable to provide a reasoned discussion on why you have chosen the approach that you have. This is especially relevant for census techniques where it is vital to choose the right one for the species, habitat, personnel and available time.

7. Implementation

This section will probably require two sub-headings. The first could be termed 'Resources Required', covering such aspects as: the number of participants; the need to hire local guides etc. and their expected availability; if special permission is required and whether you have received or are likely to receive this; and any specialist equipment that you need.

The second sub-heading will be your proposed itinerary, detailing the project period, with (if appropriate) times allocated to implementing the various objectives.

8. Budget

This should be broken down into groups of expenditure such as travel, accommodation, hire of guides, purchase of equipment, and so on.

9. Output

A concluding paragraph on what you hope to produce from the study in terms of reports, papers and articles should be included.

By this stage your project proposal will have taken shape, and cover all the information a potential funder will require on the technicalities of the project. One final section which can enhance the success of your project is to provide a brief profile of the applicant, be this an organisation or an individual. If you are submitting the proposal as an individual, do include the name and address of two referees with whom you have already discussed your project.

Finally, don't forget to think about the lay-out and presentation of your proposal. Applicants with access to word-processors and laser printers are at an advantage in terms of presentation. However, it is the content which matters and as long as the document is typed in a neat format, potential funders will be prepared to give it serious consideration.

The next hurdle in getting a project off the ground is to identify where you might obtain funding. This is a vast area in itself and the avenues open to you will depend on various factors, including your country of residence, whether you are attached to an academic institution, or are part of a recognised conservation organisation. At the end of the day, success will probably depend as much on your own entrepreneurial qualities. The best I can do is to provide a few suggestions and pointers.

In the U.K., the *Directory of Grant Giving Bodies* is a good place to start and if you reside outside the U.K. it is well worth checking to see if a similar publication exists in your country. If you are an undergraduate then check at the

Bursar's office of your college or university to see if there are any grants or trust funds you could apply to. Such sources of funding are rarely large, but it is not infrequently the case that few people apply for them. Often the most expedient approach to finding potential funders is simply to ask for suggestions from people who have undertaken similar projects.

Financial support can also come from commercial interests. This tends to be rather more difficult, and for good reasons it is the professional fundraisers who have most success. Commercial interests are, understandably, more likely to be looking for a beneficial return from your project, be this in terms of public relations, publicity, useful information or whatever.

Clearly a great deal of thought and planning is necessary to get a project off the ground, not least in terms of timing. Many grant-giving organisations make their awards only once a year and it is therefore advisable to start seeking funding in good time, which can mean a year to eighteen months in advance of your starting date. It is quite normal to apply to several funding sources, and indeed gaining funding from one source may improve your chances of success with others. Many organisations specialise in a particular field and it can be worth drawing attention to particularly relevant objectives in a covering letter. If your project is in response to an urgent development, then mark it clearly 'Emergency Appeal' or similar.

Once you have received funding, remember that the funding organisation has expressed interest and support for your project and will be as keen as you are for a successful outcome. It is courteous and prudent to keep them informed of progress, and of any new developments, changes or problems. When your project is completed make it a priority to write a report, to properly acknowledge your funders, and to send them a copy.

Applying for grants from the OBC

The Club awards the Forktail-Leica Award annually and the closing date for applications is mid-August. Survey grants can be given at any time during the year (see leaflet in this issue for full details). In addition the Club will consider making special awards from the Conservation Fund where a worthwhile project does not fit any existing categories. In this case and for the Forktail-Leica Award, we would appreciate full applications following a format along similar lines to that outlined above.

The survey grants were set up with the aim of encouraging members to undertake surveys useful to conservation, irrespective of their background and experience. If members find difficulty in preparing a proposal or if they do not have all the necessary information to hand they should still apply for a survey grant - just a letter will do. The Club's conservation officers are always willing to give guidance and advice and members should feel free to contact the Club for ideas on suitable surveys.

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Birdwatching areas

Lore Lindu National Park, Sulawesi, Indonesia.

On the fringes of the Oriental region, Sulawesi, the largest and most endemic-rich of the Wallacean islands, is just beginning to become popular with birdwatchers. No trip to the island would be complete without spending some time at its largest and ornithologically most rich reserve, Lore Lindu. The park covers some 250,000 ha with an altitudinal range from 300 m to 2160 m. In February/March 1989 I spent a week birdwatching in the area.

Lore Lindu lies in central Sulawesi, 40 km south of Palu, the provincial capital. You can travel overland, or by plane from Ujung Pandang to Palu; the overland journey is very uncomfortable and time consuming, and not a great deal cheaper than taking one of the frequent flights. Before entering the park you must obtain a permit or 'surat jalan' from Sub Balai Kawasan Pelestarian Alam on Jalan Moh Yamin. Rolex Lameanda who works there speaks excellent English and will issue you with a permit. Mine was done very quickly but it can take a whole day.

From Palu, you can take a bus from the Mosomba Terminal to the park headquarters at Kamarora. The buses are dilapidated and the journey along unmaintained roads takes some four hours. I was the only guest at the park accommodation at Kamarora and this is spartan but clean and comfortable, and right next to the forest. There is a café in the village.

I began birdwatching along the road leading east from Kamarora. North of the road much of the forest had been cleared. Noisy flocks of Golden-mantled Racquet-tail Parrots *Prioniturus platurus* did their utmost to avoid identification and a number of smaller flocks of Blue-backed Parrots *Tanygnathus sumatranus* flew off from roadside scrub. Dead forest trees which had survived the chain-saw held large colonies of Finch-billed Mynas *Scissirostrum dubium*; and another endemic starling, the White-necked Myna *Streptocitta albicollis*, is often seen in this degraded forest. Many other species were readily seen here including Purple-winged Roller *Coracias temminckii*, Ornate Lorikeet *Trichoglossus ornatus* and Spotted Kestrel *Falco moluccensis*. Overhead, Lesser Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga humilis*, Sulawesi Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis rufipectus* and Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus lanceolatus* were the most frequent raptors.

To the south of the road the forest was untouched and some of the true forest species were found including the spectacular Knobbed Hornbill *Rhyticeros cassidix* which I was lucky enough to see at close range. Sulawesi's other endemic hornbill, Sulawesi Hornbill *Penelopides exarhatus*, is also here but is much more elusive. Also seen from the road was Sulawesi Cicadabird *Coracina morio*, White-bellied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula forsteni*, Ashy Woodpecker *Mulleripicus fulvus*, Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker *Picoides temminckii*, Bay Coucal *Centropus*

celebensis, White-faced Cuckoo-Dove *Turacoena manadensis*, Black-billed Koel *Eudynamys melanorhyncha*, Fiery-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus calyrorhynchus*, small flocks of Sulawesi Hanging-Parrots *Loriculus stigmatus* and the most atypical Piping Crow *Corvus typicus*.

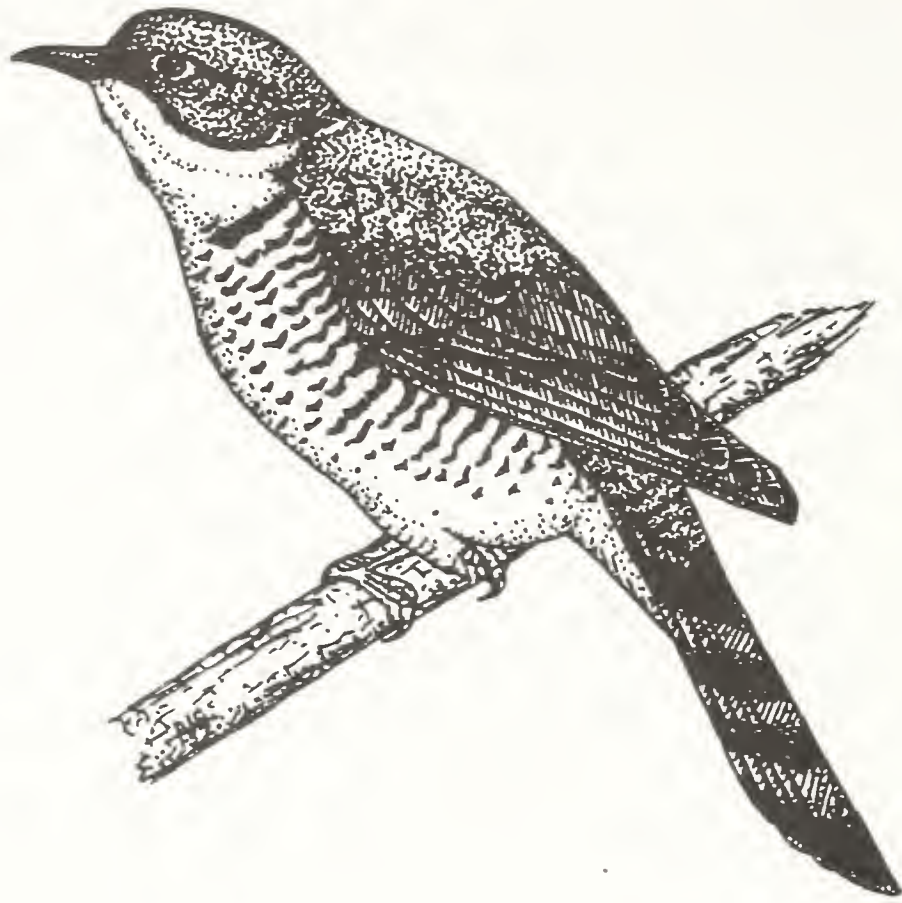
I found only one small trail into the forest, but along it I saw Barred Honey-Buzzard *Pernis celebensis*. Care has to be taken over the identification of this species because of its marked similarity to Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle. Here, I also came across the skulking Rufous-throated Flycatcher *Ficedula rufigula*, but unfortunately did not see either of the endemic ground-dwelling rails Bald-faced *Gymnocrex rosenbergii* or Snoring *Aramidopsis plateni*, or the Red-backed Thrush *Zoothera erythronota*, all of which are known from here.

Anaso Logging Camp is high up on the side of Gunung Rorekatimbu just outside the park. This logging concession provides the best opportunity to see Sulawesi's endemic montane birds. However, unless you have your own transport, the only way to get there is to hitch-hike. On arrival, the foreman at Anaso found me accommodation. The night was cold and I was glad of the breakfast I was able to buy at the camp canteen.

From Anaso, I followed the logging road from which most of the arboreal species were very readily seen. The first mixed species flock seen contained Streaky-headed White-eye *Lophozosterops squamiceps*, one of the most common birds here, Sulphur-bellied Whistler *Pachycephala sulphuriventer*, Caerulean and Pygmy Cuckoo-shrikes *Coracina temminckii* and *abbotti*, Sulawesi Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus sarasinorum*, the aberrant babbler/bulbul-like *Malia grata*, Rusty-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura teysmanni* and the spectacular Fiery-browed Myna *Enodes erythrophris*. Also along the road were several pairs of Mountain Serins *Serinus estherae* which spent most of their time high in the trees.

One of Sulawesi's remarkable endemic genera are the *Myza* honeyeaters. Both Greater Streaked and Lesser Streaked *M. celebensis* and *M. sarasinorum* are restricted to montane forest and were not difficult to see here, although getting a good view of these very active birds was not easy. Even harder to see well was the Yellow-and-green Lorikeet *Trichoglossus flavoviridis*; I usually heard their shrieking call and managed to catch a glimpse as they disappeared over the distant horizon. In the roadside scrub and sub-canopy Yellow-flanked Whistlers *Hylocitrea bonensis* and Blue-fronted Flycatcher *Cyornis hoevelli* were readily seen. From low dense vegetation frequent 'tchak' calls give away the presence of Chestnut-backed Bush-Warbler *Bradypterus castaneus*, which is, like most members of the genus, an inveterate skulker.

Dongi-dongi lies between Anaso Logging Camp and Kamarora in the upper lowland rainforest. Huge *Eucalyptus* trees grow among the more typically Asian species. The birds here were mostly the same as those encountered at Kamarora, with a few montane species at their lower altitudinal limit. However, from the main road, I managed to see one of Sulawesi's most elusive birds, Sulawesi Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus crassirostris*. The bird is probably not uncommon, but like most hawk-cuckoos, it spends much of its time quietly sitting still, making it extremely difficult to find.



Sulawesi Hawk-Cuckoo (by Dave Gibbs)

Also present in the roadside forest were Sulawesi Babblers *Trichastoma celebense*, one of only two babblers to have crossed Wallace's Line, Sulawesi Crested Myna *Basilornis celebensis* and high overhead, flocks of Purple Needletails *Hirundapus celebensis*.

From Dongi-dongi you can return to Kamarora and from there, take a bus to Saluki on the other side of the park in the Palu Valley. Saluki is near the site of a Maleo *Macrocephalon maleo* nesting ground. There is a park guard post here, and one of the guards will take you to see the Maleo. They are keen to complete their task quickly and it is advisable to ensure that you keep pace with them. The birds can be difficult to see and I found it best to set off very early as the local people visit the area to collect Maleo eggs during the day. This species is included in the ICBP/IUCN Red Data Book and it is important that any visitors to the nesting grounds avoid disturbance to the birds. Sulawesi Kingfisher *Ceyx fallax* was also seen in this area.

Even a short visit of one week to Lore Lindu is certainly worthwhile, but you must be prepared to spend much of your time travelling between sites. A longer visit could enable a careful observer to see some 70 of Sulawesi's 84 endemic birds - an exciting prospect which will surely attract more visitors to the area.

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Little-known Oriental Bird

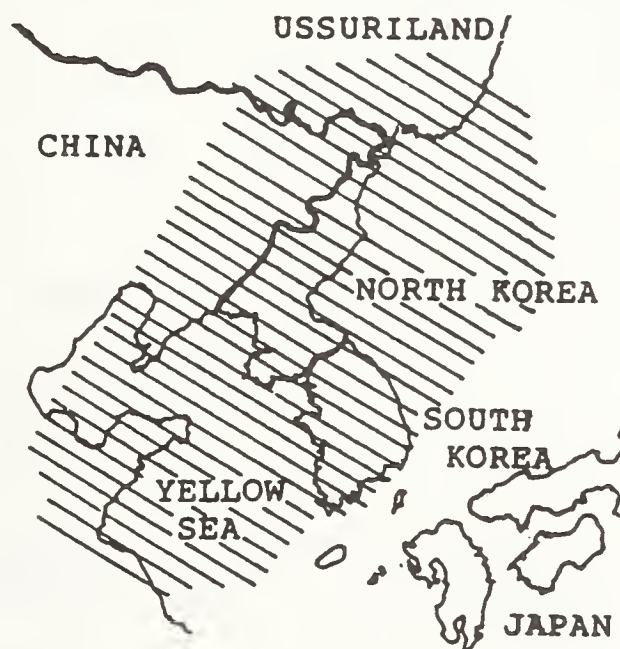


Chinese Egret

The Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes* is restricted to the eastern seaboard of Asia, from Siberia to northern Indonesia⁸. It was described by Swinhoe in 1860²¹, but confusion with the Pacific Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*, particularly in the non-breeding season, has led to confusion over its true distribution and status. However, recent data, mainly collected by staff of the Asian Wetland Bureau, Kyung Hee University, Seoul and the Korean University in Tokyo, have provided a much clearer idea of the true range and population.

In the first major review of its status in 1969³ it was suggested that a small colony in Korea might be the last, although the occurrence of migrants in the Olga Bay area of Ussuriland, north of Vladivostok and on Ostrov Bolshoy Shantar (Bolshoi Pelis Island) in the Sea of Okhotsk in 1956 - 1957³, suggested the possibility of breeding colonies in eastern Siberia. By 1984, a review was able to give a minimal population figure of 500 individuals in North Korea⁸.

All breeding records since 1985 have been from offshore islands, often amongst or close to colonies of other species, including Little Egret *Egretta*



garzetta, Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Horned Puffin *Fratercula corniculata* and Black-tailed Gull *Larus crassirostris*¹⁹. These colonies fall within a limited area, all within the Bo Hai (Gulf of Chihli) and Huang Hai (Yellow Sea). They consist of two sites off Pyonyanpuk Province in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) holding approximately 500 pairs between them, one site off Inchon City in the Republic of Korea (South Korea) holding approximately 400 pairs^{12, 15}, and two sites off Jiangsu Province, People's Republic of China, holding approximately sixty pairs between them.

Probable breeding range of Chinese Egret.

Until 1985 a few pairs bred in Hong Kong and a pair was present in one of the egrettries

in 1988. However, none occurred in 1989 and it is clear that this site is extralimital to the main breeding range.

Recent data have shown that the main wintering grounds may be in Palawan in the Philippines (N. J. Redman *in litt.* 1990) and Sarawak⁹, with small numbers in Sumatra²³, Singapore⁷ and Peninsular Malaysia¹³. Migrants have been recorded from Japan^{2, 11}, Taiwan^{12, 15, 20} and the northern Philippines⁴, and it has been

recorded in Brunei¹⁸, Sulawesi²⁴, Sabah⁶, Thailand¹⁶, the Aleutian Islands and erroneously from Christmas Island^{5, 20} and Burma^{1, 10}.



Wintering range of Chinese Egret

In nuptial plumage, Chinese Egrets can be separated from all other white egrets by the combination of black legs with yellow feet and a yellow bill, which are complemented by bright blue facial skin. In addition, breeding adults have a distinctive 'shock' of crest feathers, which are long and dense⁸. Outside the breeding season, the bill, legs and feet become greenish-yellow, resembling those of the Pacific Reef Egret and both species show

a high degree of variation in soft-part coloration. Pacific Reef Egrets often show a dusky or dark tip to the bill, which has not been recorded on Chinese Egret.

When feeding, Chinese Egrets are very active, following the receding tide and often running after mobile prey with opened wings. On these occasions they often feed in the company of other heron species, including Pacific Reef Egret, providing an opportunity for direct comparison. Pacific Reef Egrets tend to be much less active when feeding, mainly walking slowly and taking prey items which they disturb. In spite of differences in feeding behaviour, size and prey size between these species⁴, information is as yet insufficient to provide a definitive guide on how to separate them in the field outside the breeding season.

Although the present world population of at least 960 pairs is much higher than the 500 pairs previously estimated, the status of the species is still a major cause for concern, mainly due to disturbance and the destruction of habitat. Examples of the latter include the recent policy of wetland reclamation instigated by the Government of the Republic of Korea¹⁵, construction of major facilities such as the Nakdong Barrage, and coastal development throughout the species' wintering range in South-East Asia.

Chinese Egrets regularly complete the moult into nuptial plumage before the return to the breeding grounds in late April and May (or even June in the northern part of their range). It would therefore be relatively easy to collect more data on important wintering and stop-over sites and much needed information on specific habitat requirements. In addition, descriptive details of plumage and soft-part coloration during the moult could lead to better knowledge of the main identification features of the species.



MWWoodcock

Chinese Egret (by Martin Woodcock)

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Reviews....Reviews.....

Taher, S. A. and Pittie, A. 1989. **A Checklist of Birds of Andhra Pradesh.** ix + 39 pp. 2 maps. Rs 10.

This well-produced checklist is a welcome addition to the Indian literature. After a useful introduction describing the habitats and vegetation of the state of Andhra Pradesh, the checklist itself occupies the bulk of the booklet. Taxa are given English and scientific names to subspecific level, and also local names where available. Each entry is coded to give an idea of status and distribution within the state. The checklist has clearly been thoroughly researched by the authors, as evidenced by the six pages of bibliography.

Although Andhra Pradesh is the only place in the world where Jerdon's Courser *Rhinoptilus bitorquatus* can be found, this state (which includes the Eastern Ghats) is not well known to most birdwatchers. I hope this publication will help stimulate further interest in the region.

Nigel Redman

Ewans, M. et al. 1989. **Bharatpur bird paradise** Pp 144: 1 map, 70 colour and 8 monochrome photographs. London: Witherby. £14.95

This is not so much a book about Bharatpur - Bird Paradise, as a sketch of some of the birds found there. The park, its history and seasons are dealt with in five pages. The bulk of the text is made up of essays on the main groups of birds (storks, cormorants & darters, cranes etc.). While largely anecdotal and rather poor on reference to Bharatpur, these make a pleasant light read. There is a heavy bias towards larger birds, which is understandable given the fact that the book is probably aimed at the general tourist to India rather than the keen birdwatcher or conservationist. The most interesting part of the book is a concluding essay on the future of the park. Here the author touches on several issues which would have made interesting chapters in their own right, such as the droughts of 1979 and 1987, human pressure on the park, and the importance of the reserve for conservation in the context of environmental changes outside reserve areas in India.

The photographs, which equal or exceed the amount of text, are largely the work of Thakur Dalip Singh. They are mainly bird portraits and while they include some good shots, I did not find this a memorable collection. Some look

like captive birds and others are blurred; the latter could be the fault of the publisher. For me, by far the most interesting was an aerial photograph of the park and it is a shame that the caption for this did not give the month and year that it was taken.

At the end of the book there is a checklist of birds of Bharatpur. This contains many old records which really require confirmation, and its value would have been vastly increased if symbols relating to status and abundance had been included.

To conclude, I feel that the name Bharatpur has been used to sell an average collection of Indian bird photographs. I would have liked to see a book with a wider brief, which embraced the landscape, seasons, conservation management and people of Bharatpur to provide a long-overdue portrait of this exceptional reserve.

Paul Jepson

The Hong Kong Bird Report 1988. Pp. 125, 15 monochrome photographs. The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society.

This report is again up to the excellent standard one has come to expect from this Society's publications. Apart from significant bird records and accounts of other activities in 1988 it contains details of four species accepted as new to Hong Kong: Besra *Accipiter virgatus*, Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis*, Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* and Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae*; various interesting observations on bird behaviour and two papers on birds recorded in China. The first of these by Ben King and Liao Wei-ping refers to Hainan and lists four species apparently new for that island; also the bird normally referred to as *Sitta frontalis chienfengensis* is considered to be referable to *S. solangiae*, the Yellow-billed Nuthatch, thus a new species for China. The other paper refers to Kangwu Liangsi in south-west Sichuan where Ben King successfully taped the voice of the White-speckled Laughing-thrush *Garrulus bieti*, which may help in determining its specific status, and found one new species for Sichuan: Rufous-vented Yuhina *Yuhina occipitalis*.

Tim Inskipp

Earl of Cranbrook (ed) in association with IUCN. **1988 Key Environments, Malaysia.** 317 pp. London: Pergamon. £29.95.

The idea behind IUCN's *Key Environment* series is to gather together all the biological information essential for the conservation of the environments that are, or are likely to be, threatened. This volume deals with the forests of Peninsular

Malaysia and contains eighteen contributions by experts in a variety of fields.

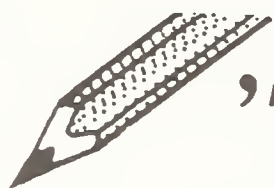
More is probably known about forest ecosystems in Malaysia than in any of the other South-East Asian countries. Nevertheless, the information assembled for this book is rather meagre and the coverage of different plant and animal groups rather uneven. This is not the fault of the editor or the contributors, it is instead a reflection of how much work there is still to do. Indeed, this seems to be one of the main functions of the book; by presenting the information that is currently available the gaps can be highlighted. More specifically many of the authors make suggestions for further work in each of their specialist's fields. A lot of the work to be done involves basic taxonomy. The fact that the book does not include chapters on the majority of the arthropod groups is presumably because they have not been studied in enough detail. Further taxonomic work is essential - if you cannot describe and name a plant or animal, it cannot be considered.

For the ornithologist, interest is not restricted to the excellent and informative chapter on birds. Anyone interested in the ecology and conservation of birds will gain valuable insights into the nature of bird habitats in Malaysia and how they might be affected by man's activities. I found Chapter Two (forest zonation), Chapter Nine (forest tree biology) and Chapter Ten (forest management) particularly fascinating: there is information on fruiting strategies, colonization rates, species/area relationships and logging systems.

One of the potential problems with multi-author books is that the style and approach of the authors can be very different. There are no such problems with this book; it is extremely well edited and tied together; the main themes are maintained throughout, and the text, although of a high academic standard, is always accessible to the non-expert.

A feature of the *Key Environment* series is that constituent volumes should be updated in the future to include any new information relevant to conservation. In a thought-provoking chapter the Director-General of Wildlife and National Parks suggests that Malaysians should be responsible for providing that information. I am sure that expatriates still have something to contribute, but in any case, I hope that in ten years time there is still enough natural habitat left to make a second edition worthwhile.

Dr Martin Jones, Department of Biological Sciences, Manchester University, U.K.



'To the Editor'

I want more!

Michael Green in his review of *Nepal's forest birds; their status and conservation*, by Carol Inskipp (*OBC Bull.* 10, p. 32)) wrote that Nepal's 850 species of birds are 'probably more for its size than any other country'. Not quite!

Costa Rica with 840 species in 50,900 sq km has 16.5 species per 1000 sq km, and Panama with 883 species in 77,082 sq km has 11.45 species per 1000 sq km. Nepal with 850 species in 140,797 sq km has 'only' 6.04 species per 1000 sq km.

This letter comes from Canada, which has 578 species in 9,922,330 sq km or 0.058 species per 1000 sq km! (If we omitted our 320 km offshore limit, we'd be even lower!)

Martin H. Edwards, 19 Jane Avenue, Kingston, Ontario, K7M 3G6, Canada.

(Panama now has a total of 929 species recorded, readers can work out the new density for themselves! Ed.)

Black Storks in Nepal and India

Along the Karnali river, in south-west Nepal, in the early afternoon of 31 October 1989, a medium-sized brown eagle *Aquila* was seen picking up height, when five Black Storks *Ciconia nigra* appeared. The eagle was soaring at a considerably higher altitude than the storks when it suddenly made a vertical dive. It landed directly on the back of one of the storks and together they crashed on the other side of the river not to reappear. The other four storks continued slowly south.

The large number of Black Storks seen around this time indicates that this was the peak of the migration season. A flock of twenty-six was seen flying at low altitude in a south-easterly direction at 10h40 on 1 November and on 3 November at 10h50 another nine were seen over the Babai River; at least two of these were juveniles.

On 13 December 1987 and 26 January 1988 I saw three juvenile Black Storks near the Madangiri salt pans close to the Aganashini River in North Kanara District of Karnataka. This is probably the southernmost record of the species in India, the location being between 14° and 15°N. Ranjit Daniels tells me that he has seen the species further inland in the northern part of the same district. In *A synopsis of the birds of India and Pakistan*, p. 21, Ripley writes that the species has been seen as far south as 18°N in India and he also mentions a record from Sri Lanka. In 'Birding in the Karera Bustard Sanctuary' (*OBC Bull.* 7, p.22) Asad Rahmani mentions records of White Storks *Ciconia ciconia* in Madhya

Pradesh in 1986-87. He links this occurrence with the drought affecting large parts of India that year. Perhaps my observations of Black Storks in 1987 - 88 were also linked with drought, as that winter too, was very dry in the northern parts of India.

Stig Toft Madsen, Strandgade 96, 1th, 1401 Copenhagen K, Denmark.

Chinese Ring on Bar-headed Goose

In November 1986 a goose banded with a Chinese ring was accidentally caught in a fishing net in a pond in a remote area of Karnataka near Haveri, 14°46'N, 75°26'E. Through curiosity, the fisherman kept the ring and passed it to the local doctor. On 10 January 1988 our team went to Haveri for the 2nd Asian one-day mid-winter waterfowl census and the metal ring was passed to me. The ring, which appeared to be made of brass, carried an address MOO 3981 BJ. POB 1928 PRC. NBBC and some Chinese script. News of the ring recovery was first communicated to the Bombay Natural History Society Bird Migration Project in February and to the Asian Wetlands Bureau in June 1988. They ascertained the exciting news that the bird was a young Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* which was ringed on 28 July 1984 at Qinghai Lake in Ganca county of Qinghai province in China.

The recovery of the ring showed that the bird had traversed the thousands of kilometres between central China and southern India. Through bird ringing and recovery of rings remarkable facts regarding bird movements, longevity, flight, speed, stamina, distance and homing ability can be studied and understood. Reporting ring recoveries by anyone in any country is therefore of paramount importance to ornithologists engaged in bird migration research.

Dr J. C. Uttangi, 56/1 Mission Compound, Dharwad-580001, Karnataka, India.

Olivaceous Warblers at Bharatpur

I was interested to read in Recent Reports (*OBC Bull.* 9, p. 39) about Simon Harrap and Steve Madge's observation of an Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida* at Bharatpur, India on 21 February 1989 and the comment that this was apparently the first record for the Indian sub-continent. During three of the last four winters I have spent a week at Bharatpur and on two occasions have seen Olivaceous Warblers there (29 November 1987 with Bryan Bland and Peter Grant, and 24 November 1989 with Bryan Bland).

Being aware that the species isn't mentioned in either the *Pictorial Guide* or the compact edition of the *Indian Handbook*, I studied both birds carefully. They were seen in typical Olivaceous situations, feeding in the middle to upper stories of acacia trees which line the raised banks running through the Keoladeo Ghana

National Park. Both were giving typical Olivaceous 'tchack' calls, which always drew my attention to them, and both were seen well at close range. They were undoubtedly *Hippolais* warblers; the short undertail coverts and square-ended tails ruling out arboreal *Acrocephalus* warblers. Their plumage seemed identical to Olivaceous Warblers in Israel and Kenya with which I am very familiar. However, the other species in the genus were considered and were ruled out for the following reasons. The upperparts were sandy-brown, bearing no trace of grey as in both Olive-tree *H. olivetorum* and Upcher's Warblers *H. languida*. The upper surface of the tail was also sandy-brown and was concolorous with the upperparts and wings; this also ruling out Upcher's which has a darker tail. The birds showed no trace of green, grey or yellow; ruling out both Melodious *H. polyglotta* and Icterine Warblers *H. icterina*. All of these species are also unlikely to occur in India as they winter exclusively in Africa. The only species of *Hippolais* recorded in India is Booted *H. caligata*. This species was considered at the time and was ruled out for a variety of reasons, including large size, large bill, and the extensive yellow lower mandible and the lack of a lateral crown stripe bordering the supercilium.

It would therefore seem that Olivaceous Warblers winter in small numbers at Bharatpur (and presumably elsewhere on the Indian sub-continent) on a regular basis. Whether wintering in the Indian sub-continent is a recent phenomenon is unknown. However, it seems unlikely that earlier ornithologists would have overlooked this species which so readily attracts attention by its frequent calls. Future visitors to Bharatpur should listen for this species and send descriptions of any sightings to relevant organisations such as the BNHS and OBC, so that a clearer picture of its status in India can be worked out.

David Fisher, 56 Western Way, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 1DU, U.K.

Decline in Number of Wintering Songbirds in Kerala?

We have been studying the birds of Kerala, particularly those of the northern part of the state, Malabar, since the mid-1970s. Over the last four or five years, we have noticed a marked decline in the numbers of several species of Palearctic winter visitors to the state. We have not made systematic counts of birds, and so cannot be sure of the magnitude of the changes, but we are very confident of the general downward trends.

We believe that the numbers of the following species are now greatly reduced compared to twelve years ago. Indian Pitta *Pitta brachyura* was previously very common around gardens and plantations, as well as in forest, but is now seen only sporadically. Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* was very common in clearings and scrub habitats within forest in the 1970s, but is now uncommon. Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* was previously abundant in practically every clump of bushes. Now, although still a common bird, we found less than 10 birds in an hour's walk in ideal habitat this winter, which we estimate to be

only 10-20% of the former numbers. Green Warbler *Phylloscopus nitidus* and Greenish Warbler *P. trochiloides* are two rather similar species, which we may have confused from time to time in our records. However they were both very common before, wherever there were trees. Now they are still met with fairly frequently on any day you go birdwatching, but much less frequently than before. Twelve years ago we would never have been out of earshot of one or two birds calling, but this winter we met them only sporadically. Western Crowned Warbler *P. occipitalis* was previously found in any well-wooded area, and was common in evergreen forest. Now the bird is uncommon or rare and sometimes not seen at all in a morning's birdwatching in suitable habitat. Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* was found abundantly on all forest roads in the past and along streams. Although it is still widespread in the same habitat, numbers in recent winters seem to be much lower than before.

We have no idea about why these reductions should have occurred. All the species we list were formerly common, but this is presumably why we have noticed their decline. Rarer species may also have declined, but because they were unusual anyway we may not have noticed any change. The species which have declined include both Himalayan and trans-Himalayan migrants, so an explanation based on changes in their breeding ground seems unlikely. Changes are occurring rapidly in Kerala, particularly loss of primary forests, and these may be involved in the songbird declines. All species noted occur mainly in forested or partially forested countryside, except Blyth's Reed Warbler, which occurs in agricultural areas as well as forest margins. However with a reduction of habitat in Kerala, might we not expect to find a higher density of birds in the remaining habitat patches?

We bring these observations to the attention of OBC members as we would be very interested to hear from anyone who has similar observations from elsewhere or who has information concerning population trends for any of the species mentioned, or on other migrants wintering in south Asia.

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Announcements & Requests

The ICBP Biodiversity Project

The aim of this Project is to produce a global map of endemism, to illustrate those areas which support concentrations of endemic species, which must be conserved to maintain overall biological diversity. Areas of endemism will be identified by mapping the distribution of all restricted-range endemic bird species (defined as those with an estimated total range size of less than 50,000 sq km), and then overlaying these maps to identify areas and habitats which support concentrations of these species. By comparisons with recent vegetation maps it will be possible to highlight those areas of endemism which are most seriously threatened by habitat destruction, and it will also be possible to assess whether the key habitats of these areas are adequately represented in the current protected areas system.

The Oriental region is particularly important for endemic birds, and several hundred species are being mapped. Most of the published information on the distribution of these birds has already been collated, but ICBP is aware that many OBC members will have recorded some of them on birding trips or during survey work, and is very keen to use these records. A leaflet enclosed with this Bulletin gives details of the species which are being mapped.

Enquiries on the Biodiversity Project to Mike Crosby, ICBP Biodiversity Project, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 0PJ, U.K.

Kukila Subscriptions News

Kukila, the journal on Indonesian avifauna, has announced new subscription rates for 1990 which will be US\$12 (US\$16 for airmail), £8 (£10.50 airmail), or Aus.\$16 (Aus.\$20 for airmail); payments in other currencies should be the equivalent at current rates of exchange. Indonesian subscribers rate will remain at Rp.10,000. The 1990 journal will be issue number 5, back issues and contents lists of previous issues are available on request from the *Kukila* address.

Following the introduction of new bank charges in Indonesia, the following new arrangements have been made for payment of subscriptions.

Indonesia: Cheques for Rp. 10,000 to be made payable to D. A. Holmes and mailed to *Kukila* address. Those whose cheques are drawn outside Jakarta should pay by 'Pos Wesel' as this incurs no extra charges.

US Dollars: Cheques made payable to Oriental Bird Club/*Kukila* and mailed to Dr R. S. Kennedy, Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, 1720 Gilbert Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, USA.

Pounds sterling: Cheques made payable to D. A. Holmes and mailed to *Kukila* address.

Dutch Guilders: Cheques made payable to S. van Balen, Giro no 3791388, and mailed to Prumelaan 44, 6824 HS Arnhem, Netherlands.

Danish Krona: Cheques made payable to Mortens Heegard, Giro no 4104420 and mailed to O. Gaden O. Vandet 524, 1415 Copenhagen K, Denmark.

Malaysia Ringgit: Cheques made payable to Dennis Yong and mailed to 35 Jalan SS21/20, 47400 Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Australian Dollars: Cheques made payable to K. D. Bishop and mailed to 'Semioptera', Lot 15, Kerns Road, Kincumber, NSW 2250, Australia.

EEC Countries: Subscribers from EEC countries may pay by Eurocheque in pounds sterling made payable to D. A. Holmes and mailed to the *Kukila* address.

Please specify for which volume of *Kukila* your payment is for.

Kukila P.O. BOX 287/JKSMG, Jakarta 12710A, Indonesia.

Singapore MNS News

Plans are now laid for the new Sungei Buloh Bird Reserve, which was approved by government last year, to be officially opened in early 1991. A new visitor centre, access bridge, mangrove board walks, observation tower as well as graded footpaths and hides are now being designed. The development is being managed by a committee representing different government bodies, and including two MNS Singapore Branch bird group members. Outside advice has been obtained from David Melville in Hong Kong, Duncan Parish in Kuala Lumpur and Michael Ounstead of Slimbridge, U.K., and the Singapore MNS branch is very grateful for their input.

The bird group has already made proposals for three other sites to conserve a breeding colony of Black-crowned Night Herons *Nycticorax nycticorax* and various other mangrove and freshwater marsh habitats. A master plan is now in preparation to identify all valuable and important bird sites in Singapore and these will be presented to the government in the near future.

A new checklist of birds of Singapore is being prepared to replace the 1984 edition and this will show an increase of almost 40 species which is perhaps more a reflection of increased numbers of watchers rather than birds!

For more information contact Clive Briffett, MNS Singapore Branch bird group, c/o 22 Prince George's Park, Singapore 0511.

MNS Conference 'In Harmony with Nature'

As part of its programme of events to celebrate its 50th Anniversary, the Malayan Nature Society together with the Malaysian Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, has organised an international conference addressing current developments in nature conservation. The conference 'In Harmony with Nature' takes place on 12 - 16 June 1990 in Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.

Session papers and posters will cover subjects including international co-operation in nature conservation, biodiversity of tropical ecosystems, endangered species, human and social aspects of conservation, management of reserves, and conservation education.

Late registration costs M\$350 for local participants, US\$300 for foreign

participants. All correspondence regarding the conference should be addressed to the Conference Secretariat, Malayan Nature Society, P.O. BOX 10750, 50724 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Birds in Bangladesh in Print

Birds in Bangladesh, a new book by Bill Harvey has just been published by the University Press Limited in Dhaka. The work represents the results of a two-year British Council project to produce an annotated checklist of the birds of Bangladesh for use by ornithologists, conservationists, zoology students and development workers concerned with environmental issues.

Although it draws on earlier authoritative sources, it only includes those species known with certainty to have occurred within the national boundaries of present-day Bangladesh. With the addition of about 25 species in the last five years, the list comprises nearly 600 species recorded up to the end of 1989.

The book costs Tk. 390.00 and the publisher's address is: The University Press Limited, Red Cross Building, 114 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka 1000, P.O. BOX 2611, Bangladesh.



Recent Reports

These are largely unconfirmed records covering the period from August 1989 to March 1990, with a few earlier records from some countries. We urge that if they have not already done so, contributors provide full details to the relevant regional organisation in due course.

CHINA

A full species list has been received from observations made at Golmud, western Qinghai Province between March 1988 and October 1989. Unless specified otherwise, all the following records are from 1989 and from JHo.

An Eurasian Griffon *Gyps fulvus* seen on 22 September is either the first or second record for China. Other notable raptors included two Long-legged Buzzards *Buteo rufinus* on 12 October, which was a first record for Qinghai Province, and two Peregrine Falcons *Falco peregrinus calidus* on 4 October were probably the first records of this race in western China. Up to four Horned

(Slavonian) Grebes *Podiceps auritus* were seen on seven days in September, and one or two Red-necked Grebes *P. grisegena* were seen on four days between 23 September and 10 October.

Interesting waders observed in Golmud during September 1989 were Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* (possibly the first record for China - see *OBC Bull.* 8, p.24), Little Stint *Calidris minuta*, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *C. acuminata* and Little Curlew *Numenius minutus* (probably the first for Qinghai). A juvenile Little Gull *Larus minutus* on 1 September was also a first for Qinghai. Three or four Red Turtle Doves *Streptopelia tranquebarica* on 6 and 9 October were the first for western Qinghai.

Passerine firsts for Qinghai recorded at Golmud were up to four Eurasian Chiffchaffs *Phylloscopus collybita* from 5 - 16 October, Hume's Yellow-browed Warbler *P. inornatus humei* on 12 - 16 October, five Eurasian Penduline Tits *Remiz pendulinus*, on 8 December 1988, and one or two Rustic Buntings *Emberiza rustica*, seen between 12 and 15 October. Possible first records for the province include single Red-throated Pipits *Anthus cervinus* on 1 September and 10 October, up to eight Little Buntings *E. pusilla*, recorded on 6 and 14 October, and a Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* on 11 October.

A few recent records were received from elsewhere in China. Unspecified numbers of Bar-headed and Snow Geese *Anser indicus* and *A. caerulescens* and a Siberian Crake *Coturnicops exquisitus* were seen at Poyang Lake between 9 and 14 December (MB, MC, RH, PL, DT). A Scaly-sided Merganser *Mergus squamatus* was seen at the same site on 25 December (NC, JH, MT). Three Yellow-vented Warblers *Phylloscopus cantator*, a new species for China, were seen on a visit to Xishuangbanna in Yunnan Province from 4 to 18 March (PK).



Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (by Dave Showler)

HONG KONG

A Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* seen on 11 November was the first winter record for Hong Kong (MT). Later in the winter a Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* seen on 2 January was only the second record for Hong Kong. An adult Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei* was noted on 10 February (PK, MT, RL, MC). The latter species was seen two weeks later at Starling Inlet, presumably another record of the same bird (PK *et al.*). Other notable gulls included a Mew Gull *Larus canus* at Mai Po on 21 January (MT), and a record count of 143 Saunders' Gulls *Larus saundersi* in Deep Bay on 11 February (GC).

Among the passerines, four species were recorded for the first time in Hong Kong: Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* seen at Pokfulam on 24 September (SS *et al.*); Two-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*, which was trapped at Kadoorie Farm on 6 October (PL); Brown-breasted Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous* at Luk Keng on 24 January (GC, WY) and Blunt-winged Warbler *Acrocephalus concinens*, caught at Mai Po on 26 January (PL). A Pallas's Rosefinch *Carpodacus roseus* seen at Mount Davis on 22 October (RL, MT), if accepted as being a wild bird, will also be a first for Hong Kong. The first Hong Kong record of the central Asian race of Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus humei* was ringed at Kadoorie Farm on 2 December (PL).

Other notable records included a Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*, seen with a thrush flock at Mount Davis on 3 December (PK), and a Barred Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia unchall* at Hok Tan reservoir on 6 - 7 December (RL), both were second records for Hong Kong. A Bull-headed Shrike *Lanius bucephalus* near the Chinese University on 27 - 28 October (RL), and an Eurasian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* at Mai Po on 3 February (PL, PK *et al.*) were both third records for Hong Kong. A Thick-billed Warbler *Acrocephalus aedon* was seen at Mai Po on 10 February (PK, MT) and a Fukien Niltava *Niltava davidi* was at Cheung Chau on 22 February (MW).

Records received as this Bulletin went to press include on 17 March a Grey-necked Bunting *Emberiza buchanani* seen at Mai Po, a first for Hong Kong (MT), and a Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae* seen in Tai Po Kau the next day, a second record for Hong Kong. Another first record for the country turned up on 8 April; a single Himalayan Swiftlet *Collocalia brevirostris* at Mount Davis.

INDIA

Some interesting observations have been received from southern India (NR, SH). A Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* at Point Calimere, Tamil Nadu on 25 December was a long way further south than previous Indian records (all in Gujarat), although the species has been recorded in Sri Lanka. Five Nilgiri Woodpigeons *Columba elphinstonii* were seen at Ootacamund, Tamil Nadu, on 31 December, whilst single Kashmir Flycatchers *Ficedula subrubra* were seen at the same site on 31 December and 1 January, and in Periyar National Park on 22 and 23 November (AR).

A Chestnut-winged Cuckoo *Clamator coromandus* was seen on three

occasions between 21 November and 4 December (AR), and at Periyar on 27 December (NR, SH). One Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus* seen with other minivets in a mixed flock on 7 December in Periyar was apparently the first record for Kerala (AR). A Rufous-bellied Eagle *Hieraaetus kienerii* in Periyar on 8 December was also of interest (AR). A Tytler's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tytleri* was seen at Munnar, Kerala on 29 December (NR, SH); there are very few records of this species from the Western Ghats, but it may well have been overlooked.

Andaman Islands

On 7 and 8 January, six of the ten Andaman endemics were seen (NR, SH). Of particular interest was an Andaman Crake *Rallina canningi* seen west of Port Blair in an area of marsh - possibly the first confirmed sighting this century. A male Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus* seen on South Andaman was the first winter record from the islands, suggesting that the species may be resident year-round. Two firsts for the Andamans were Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus* on 7 January on South Andaman (TW), and Brown-chested Flycatcher *Rhinomyias brunneata*, presumably the race *nicobarica* which has previously only been recorded in winter in the Nicobar Islands, but may be resident and represent another species (*Birds to Watch*).

INDONESIA

The Manchester Indonesia Expedition worked on Sumba and Buru between August and December 1989. The 21 new species recorded for Sumba were mostly waders and terns, but Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* and Javan Myna *Acridotheres javanicus* were also firsts for the island. Three new species were added to the Buru list. A preliminary report of the expedition (Jones & Banjaransee 1990) includes the following noteworthy records of island endemics.

Sumba

The endemic Sumba subspecies of the Yellow-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua sulphurea citrinocristata* was found to be fairly common in the small areas of remaining primary forest. Sumba Button-quail *Turnix everetti* was only recorded at one site near Watumbaka, where up to five were seen and one was caught. The species is probably very under-recorded as it is very difficult to locate. It was encouraging that the Sumba Hornbill *Rhyticeros everetti* was recorded commonly in the vicinity of Pengaduhahar and Tabundung, the largest group being five birds. The species appears to be dependent on primary forest, in which two probable nest sites were located. Sumba Green Pigeon *Treron teysmanni* was seen commonly in the same two areas, often in groups of up to six. The Red-naped Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus dohertyi* was thought to be perhaps the rarest of the endemics, being recorded on less than ten occasions in Tabundung. The Sumba Boobook Owl *Ninox rudolfi* was probably fairly common although its calls could not definitely be distinguished; one was brought into the camp alive by a local cockatoo trapper. The Sumba Flycatcher *Ficedula harterti* and

Apricot-breasted Sunbird *Nectarinia buettikoferi* were both found to be common in both primary and secondary forest areas.

Buru

The following species endemic to Buru were recorded. Blue-fronted Lorikeet *Charmosyna toxopei* was found to be very rare, with only one probable sighting of two birds, north west of Lake Rana at c. 800m. The Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot *Micropsitta bruijnii*, endemic to Buru and Seram was only seen on three occasions. Buru Racquet-tail Parrot *Prioniturus mada*, Black-tipped Monarch *Monarcha loricatus*, Tawny-backed Fantail *Rhipidura superflua* and Buru Yellow White-eye *Zosterops buruensis* were all found to be common. Buru Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina fortis* was recorded on only two occasions, at Wafawel and Bara. Buru Honeyeater *Lichmera deningeri* was uncommon at Wafawel and Lake Rana, but was seen more often at Bara. No confirmed observations were made of Black-lored Parrot *Tanygnathus gramineus*, Streaky-breasted Jungle Flycatcher *Rhinomyias addita* or Rufous-throated White-eye *Madanga ruficollis*, all endemic to Buru.

Java

Interesting records received from JE include the following. Five Pacific Black Ducks *Anas superciliosa* on 9 February on Telaga Warna Lake, Dieng Plateau are apparently the first recent record from Java. One Sunda Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina larvata* was seen on Mount Merapi on 11 February and four more were recorded in Gunung Gede National Park on 16 - 17 February. Three White-rumped Shamas *Copsychus malabaricus*, now rare due to trapping, were seen at Pagandaran reserve on 13 February.

Noteworthy species seen between 1 - 5 July 1989 at the Iyang highlands included Javan Bush Warbler *Bradypterus seebohmi montis*, which was not uncommon in scrub vegetation bordering the grass plains, Grey-breasted Partridge *Arborophila orientalis*, Tawny-breasted Parrotfinch *Erythrura hyperythra* (common) and Mountain Serin *Serinus estherae* (BB).

A number of single and small groups of shearwaters and petrels were seen on a boat journey from Ujung Kulon to Krakatau Island on 13 September 1989. Only a few could be identified but these included Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*, hitherto unconfirmed for Java (BB). The same day a pair of Peregrine Falcons *Falco peregrinus* was encountered near the crater top of Krakatau, showing aggressive behaviour towards visitors; this and the remains of prey, suggested they were breeding somewhere on the island (BB).

Some interesting records from the extensive lowland forest along the coast south of Malang, from 25 - 28 October 1989 included on the 27th a juvenile Javan Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus bartelsi* and White-breasted Babbler *Stachyris grammiceps* which appeared to be not uncommon in the area; this is the first record for east Java of this species, previously known only from west of Mount Slamet in central Java (BB).

Bali

Records from Bali Barat National Park from early 1989 include a single Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana* on 28 January (the species is not included in the park list in MacKinnon 1988), and a single Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus* on the same day (JE). Two new species for the island were recorded in Bali Barat later in the year; the Orange-breasted Pigeon *Treron bicincta* appeared to be a common species breeding in April and May, whilst the Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii* was regularly heard from May to September (BB).

MALAYSIA

Sabah

The occurrence of Grey Imperial Pigeon *Ducula pickeringii* on Sipadan Island off Semporna, Sabah, was confirmed in late October 1989. Also of interest on the island were breeding Black-naped Fruit Doves *Ptilinopus melanospila* and several sightings of two rare migrants to Borneo; Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* and Grey-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta*. On 31 October there was a Pomarine Jaeger (Skua) *Stercorarius pomarinus* off Semporna - only a few birds have been recorded here in the past. A singing male Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum* seen on the coast near Tawau on 21 October was interesting as it had a scarlet crown and rump but a black back and is probably an undescribed race. A single Storm's Stork *Ciconia stormi* seen near Mount Silam on 27 January 1990 was a new record for the area. All records from FL.

NEPAL

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata* was photographed, and recorded for the first time in Nepal on the lower Arun river on 21 January (SG). A Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* seen at Kosi Barrage was only the third record for Nepal. Also of interest at the same location was a Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* seen from 3 to 5 February this year (SG). Two Rustic Buntings *Emberiza rustica* at Pokhara were only the third record of the species for Nepal and for the Indian subcontinent (RS).

Records of two species at Chitwan National Park marked new western limits to the ranges of those birds; Abbott's Babbler *Trichastoma abbotti* was confirmed in the park (JN) and in March last year a single Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Dicaeum chrysorrheum* was seen (TG).

PAKISTAN

Twenty Marbled Teal *Marmaronetta angustirostris* were recorded at Tandomusty near Sukkur on 12 October (NL). More than 3000 Common Cranes *Grus grus* and 400 Eastern White Pelicans *Pelecanus onocrotalus* were seen on passage at Khar between 3 and 6 October; crane numbers may total something in the region of 25,000 during the two-week passage period (NL).

PHILIPPINES

Palawan

A group of 164 Chinese Egrets *Egretta eulophotes* at a high tide roost near Puerto Princesa in March, were seen with 10 Little Egrets *E. garzetta* and one Intermediate Egret *E. intermedia*. A regular wintering flock has been known here since 1983, but this is an unusually high count (NR).

Mindanao

An adult Barred Honey-Buzzard *Pernis celebensis* was seen at Mount Katanglad on 7 March, and nine Blue-backed Parrots *Tanygnathus sumatranus* were observed at Bislig on 12 March (NR).

Luzon

Two Luzon Wren-Babblers *Napothera rabori* seen on 16 January in the Angat watershed, south-west Sierra Madre mountains, between 250m and 300m, were the first ever observed in the field, having been described in 1960 from three trapped specimens. Also extremely interesting was a pair of Celestial Monarchs *Hypothymis helenae* seen at the same site (FL).

A Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* at Candaba Marsh on 24 December was possibly only the second or third record for the Philippines (FL, TF). A single Philippine Eagle Owl *Bubo philippensis* in Quezon National Park on 22 March was of note as this species is rarely seen in the field (NR). An unspecified number of Brown-headed Thrushes *Turdus chrysolaus* were recorded wintering on Mount Polis (FL).

SINGAPORE

Records for Singapore have been compiled by LKS from *Singapore Avifauna*, the monthly bulletin of the MNS Singapore Branch bird group. Four new species for Singapore have recently been recorded, the most remarkable of these being one or two immature Steppe Eagles *Aquila nipalensis* first seen at Ponggol on 15 November and remaining until 30 January. Also new were two Whiskered Terns *Chlidonias hybridus* in partial summer plumage at Sungei Seletar Reservoir on 19 September; one or two Streaked Bulbuls *Hypsipetes malaccensis* seen at Bukit Timah Nature Reserve on 31 December and 6 January; and one female Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Anthreptes singalensis* found in Nee Soon forest on 1 August.

Other records, which if confirmed would also be firsts for Singapore, were up to 12 Wandering Treeducks *Dendrocygna arcuata* (which may prove to be escapes) seen at Marina South between 1 October and 27 January; a single Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus* at Sime Road on 29 October; a Gold-whiskered Barbet *Megalaima chrysopogon* recorded calling in Bukit Timah Nature Reserve on 30 December and 13 January; a Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea* present at Bukit Batok Nature Park from 5 November to 2 December; and records of Black-crested Bulbuls *Pycnonotus melanicterus* (which may possibly be escapes), three seen on Bukit Brown on 10 September, one at Sime Road on 17

December and two at Bukit Timah Nature Reserve on 31 December and 6 January. A Brown-chested Flycatcher *Rhinomyias brunneata* at Sime Road on 29 October may also be a first for Singapore.

Two species recorded for the second time in Singapore were Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*, one seen at Sime Road on 29 October; and a male Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina* at Bukit Timah Nature Reserve from 21 December to 27 January. An exploratory visit to the Singapore Straits on 10 October proved worthwhile with sightings of at least 20 Swinhoe's Storm-Petrels *Oceanodroma monorhis* and four shearwaters, which were probably dark-phased Wedge-tailed *Puffinus pacificus*, and were the first record of shearwaters for Singapore.

Interesting records of raptors include up to eight Greater Spotted Eagles *Aquila clanga* between 14 November and 24 December, an immature Imperial Eagle *A. heliaca* (third record for Singapore) from 9 - 24 December, a Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* at Lorong Buang Kok on 3 December, and a Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus* at Senoko on 29 December. A Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* at Marina East on 14 January was the fifth record for Singapore.

Unusual waders included a Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* at Serangoon on 11 October and another at Ponggol on 15 October, a Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* at Ponggol on 7 September, and a Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* at Serangoon on 8 October. The continued existence of the Beach Thick-knee *Esacus magnirostris*, probably the most endangered Singapore bird, was confirmed on 24 September with the sighting of one adult on Pulau Sudong.

Recent exploration of the central catchment yielded some interesting finds. These included a Crested Serpent-eagle *Spilornis cheela* on 25 September, a Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus* at Sime Road on 29 October, which was the first record in more than ten years; a Thick-billed Spiderhunter *Arachnothera crassirostris* on 14 November, the first in twenty years; and at least 7 Yellow-vented Flowerpeckers *Dicaeum chrysorrheum* on 15 and 17 December, the first record in forty years. Two Grey-headed Fish-eagles *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus* were also found here on 8 September, with one still present on 1 January.

SRI LANKA

Some interesting seabird records from Sri Lanka published last year in *Sea Swallow* 38, include the first records for the whole of the Oriental region of Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis*; two were observed on 7 & 10 September 1988 (RDS). Also in 1988, a South Polar Skua *Catharacta maccormicki* seen on 10 July was the first definite record for the country, and a Lesser Noddy *Anous tenuirostris* observed on 17 September was the first live record for Sri Lanka.

THAILAND

The first records for some considerable time of Hume's Pheasant *Syrnaticus*

humiae came from Doi Chiang Dao Wildlife Sanctuary last year. A pair was seen on 15 June and a single male on 19 November.

Two new species for Thailand may have been recorded, both are awaiting confirmation. Three birds, thought to be Malaysian Blue Flycatchers *Cyornis turcosa*, were netted, the first back in September 1987, and two more on 16 & 17 July 1989. On 22 December, at Ekkamai, Bangkok 7 to 8 possible Himalayan Griffons *Gyps himalayensis* were seen, two of which were captured and photographed.

A single Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* on 15 November 1989 at Ban Luang, Doi Ang Khang (Chiang Mai), was the first record for Thailand. A Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* seen at Khao Sam Roi Yot on 3 November was the second record for the country, and the third record for the country of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* came from Ban Chai Thale Rangchan (Samut Sakhon) on 3 December.

Six White-winged Ducks *Cairina scutulata* seen in a remote area of Thung Yai on 15 November was the largest number of the species seen recently. A single Rufous-tailed Robin *Erithacus sibilans* at Khao Yai National Park was only the second record for the park. At sea off Ko Samui on 29 December four Skuas *Catharacta* sp. were only the second record for Thailand.

All records from BBC.

Records were collated by Adam Gretton from observations and contributions from the following: B. van Balen (BB), M. Bazeiun (MB), Bangkok Bird Club (BBC), M. Chalmers (MC), N. Croft (NC), J. Erard (JE), T. Fisher (TF), S. Gardiner (SG), T. Giri (TG), R. Hale (RH), J. Holmes (JH), J. Hornskov (JHo), S. Harrap, Birdquest (SH), Hong Kong Birdwatching Society (GC, RL, SS, MW, WY), P. Kennerley (PK), F. Lambert (FL), Lim Kim Seng (LKS), N. Lindsay (NL), P. Leader (PL), J. Nielsen (JN), A. Robertson (AR), N. Redman, Birdquest (NR), R. De Silva (RDS), R. Slack (RS), D. Thomas (DT), M. Turnbull (MT), T. Weber (TW).

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Guidelines for contributors

Whilst the Editor is always pleased to discuss possible contributions with potential authors, and to advise on preparation, it would be helpful if the following guidelines could be adhered to:

1. Articles These should be written clearly, preferably typed, on one side of the page, with all lines double-spaced, leaving wide margins, and should be no longer than 2000 words. Scientific names should appear at the first mention of each species or, if all species appear in a table, they may be given there instead. Scientific names should, where possible, follow King *et al.* (1975) *A field guide to the birds of South-East Asia*.

Any tables to accompany articles should be prepared on separate pieces of paper, and be thoroughly checked. Titles of tables should be self-explanatory. Diagrams should be clearly drawn, in ink, ideally 15cm wide and 11cm high. References should be cited in alphabetical order at the end of the paper in the same style used in this Bulletin.

It would be helpful if two copies of each contribution could be submitted.

2. Recent Reports These should follow the format in the current edition of the OBC Bulletin, and be sent to OBC, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Beds. SG19 2DL, U.K.
3. News/Information Typed or hand-written contributions should be sent to R. Grimmett, OBC, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Beds. SG19 2DL, U.K.

Although every effort is made to retain all articles in their submitted form, the Editorial Committee reserves the right to make changes that it deems necessary, and, in a minimum of cases, without prior reference to the author. It is assumed that all contributors submitting material understand and accept these conditions.

For News and Views, Book Reviews, Announcements and Letters, the deadline for submission of material is 1 March (May Bulletin) and 1 September (November Bulletin). Recent reports are needed one month earlier. The deadlines do not apply to the main articles which will be published as soon as possible after acceptance by the Editorial Committee.

Contents

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|--|
| 1. | EDITORIAL | Helen Taylor |
| 1. | CLUB NEWS | Meetings in 1990; Council changes; Club tour to Bhutan; Grand Prize Draw; and other club news. |
| 8. | CONSERVATION FUND | Forktail-Leica Award for 1989 & 1990; Survey Grant Awards. |
| 11. | NEWS AND VIEWS | Richard Grimmett |
| 13. | FEATURES | Steve Ormerod
Rivers, river birds & land use in the middle hills and terai of Nepal. |
| 18. | | Nepal's Minimum Impact Code |
| 20. | | Paul Jepson
Ideas on project proposals and seeking funds. |
| 24. | BIRDWATCHING AREAS | David Gibbs
Lore Lindu National Park, Sulawesi, Indonesia. |
| 27. | LITTLE KNOWN ORIENTAL BIRD | Richard Lansdown
Chinese Egret. |
| 31. | BOOK REVIEWS | Bharatpur Bird Paradise; A Checklist of the Birds of Andhra Pradesh; Hong Kong Bird Report 1988; Key Environments, Malaysia. |
| 34. | LETTERS | Olivaceous Warblers at Bharatpur?; Black Storks in Nepal and India; ring recovery; I want more!; Decline in wintering songbirds in Kerala? |
| 38. | ANNOUNCEMENTS & REQUESTS | ICBP Biodiversity Project; <i>Kukila</i> subscriptions; Singapore MNS news; MNS Conference; New book on birds of Bangladesh. |
| 40. | RECENT REPORTS | Adam Gretton
China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. |